

R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix and Caesar's Gift

Written by René GOSCINNY

Illustrated by Albert UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

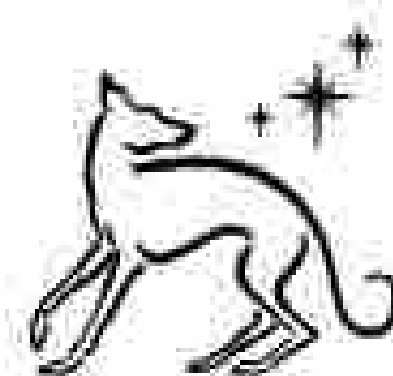
PRESENT

An Asterix Adventure

ASTERIX AND CAESAR'S GIFT

Written by RENÉ GOSCINNY *and Illustrated by* ALBERT UDERZO

Translated by Anthea Bell *and* Derek Hockridge



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AN ORION CHILDREN'S EBOOK

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Revised edition and English translation © 2004 Hachette Livre

Original title: *Le Cadeau de César*

This eBook first published in 2014 by Orion Children's Books.

Exclusive licensee: Orion Publishing Group

Translators: Anthea Bell and Derek Hockridge

Typography: Bryony Newhouse

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This revised edition first published in 2004 by Orion Books Ltd,

Orion House, 5 Upper Saint Martin's Lane, London WC2H 9EA

An Hachette UK company

This ebook edition has been created using CircularFLO from Circular Software

A CIP record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978 1 4440 1328 3

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THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY ... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM ...



ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX - SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .



CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .



FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.

OUR STORY OPENS MELODIOUSLY IN A BAR IN A DISREPUTABLE PART OF ROME, AS THEY USED TO SAY IN THE COLLOQUIAL IDIOM OF THE TIME, 'VINUM ET MUSICA LAETIFICANT COR'...

b #J.J/
**AND WHEN I'M DEAD
DON'T BURY ME AT ALL,
JUST PICKLE MY BONES
IN ALCOHOL, AN AMPHORA
OF WINE AT MY HEAD
AND FEET, AND THEN
I'M SURE MY BONES
WILL KEEP ... HIC!**

DE MORTUIS NIL
NISI BONUM!

Kiss Me
**KISS ME
GOODNIGHT, CENTURION
...CENTURION,
BE A MATER
TO ME...**

**SHUT UP,
TREMENSELIRIUS,
YOU'LL BRING THE
PATROL DOWN ON
US!**

**PATROL? HUH!
WHAT'SH THE
PATROL MATTER?
WE'RE FINISHED
WITH PATROLSH!**

**NOT QUITE,
WE AREN'T, SO
CALM DOWN!**

**HOW LONG
HAVE YOU
DONE IN THE
ARMY?**

**TWENTY YEARS, SAME
AS EVERYONE ELSE. AND
TOMORROW JULIUS CAESAR'S
GIVING US OUR HONESTA
MISSIO!* WITH A FREE
GIFT OF A PLOT OF
LAND TOO!**

* DEMOS

**JULIUS CAESAR! HUH!
WANT TO KNOW WHAT
I THINK OF JULIUS
CAESAR?**

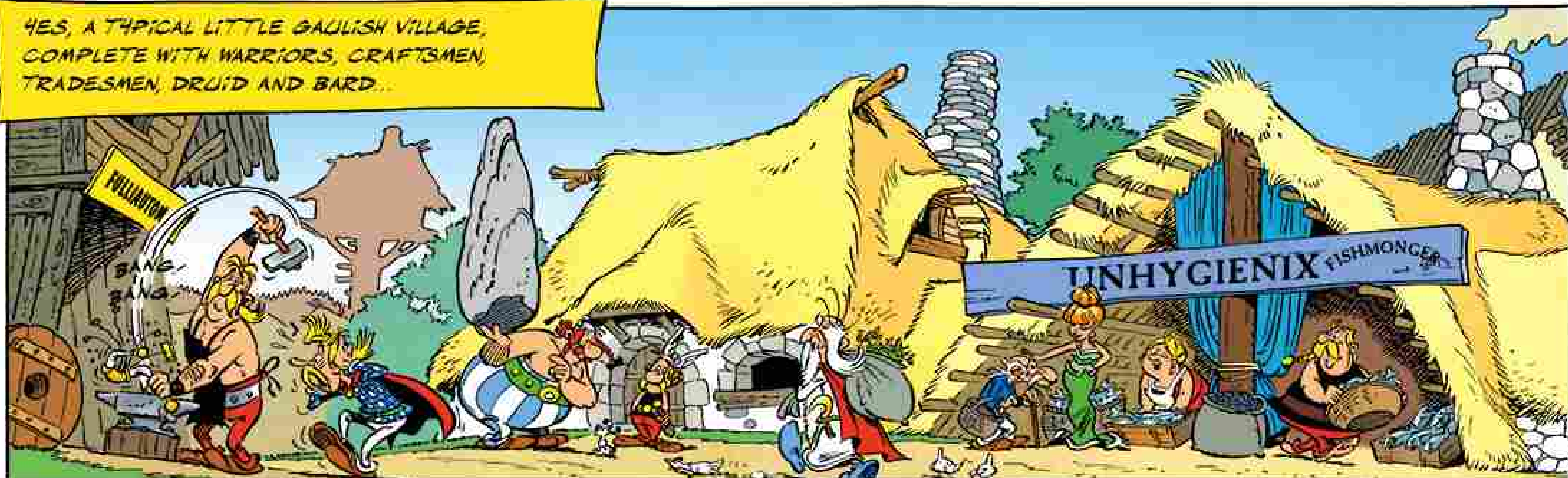






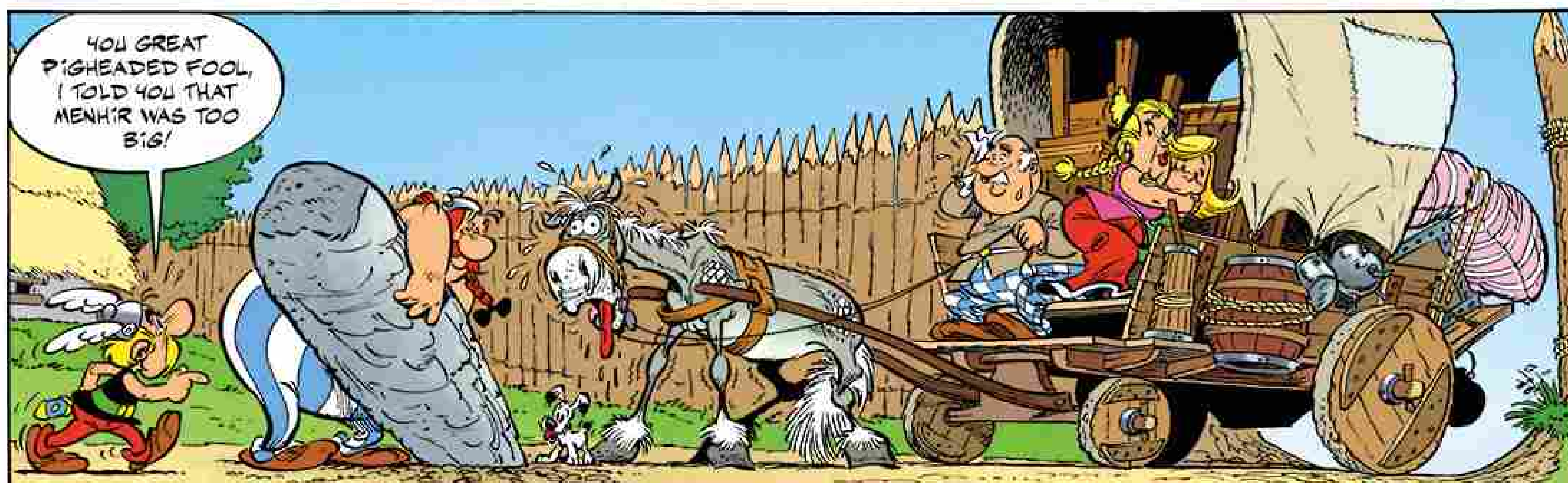


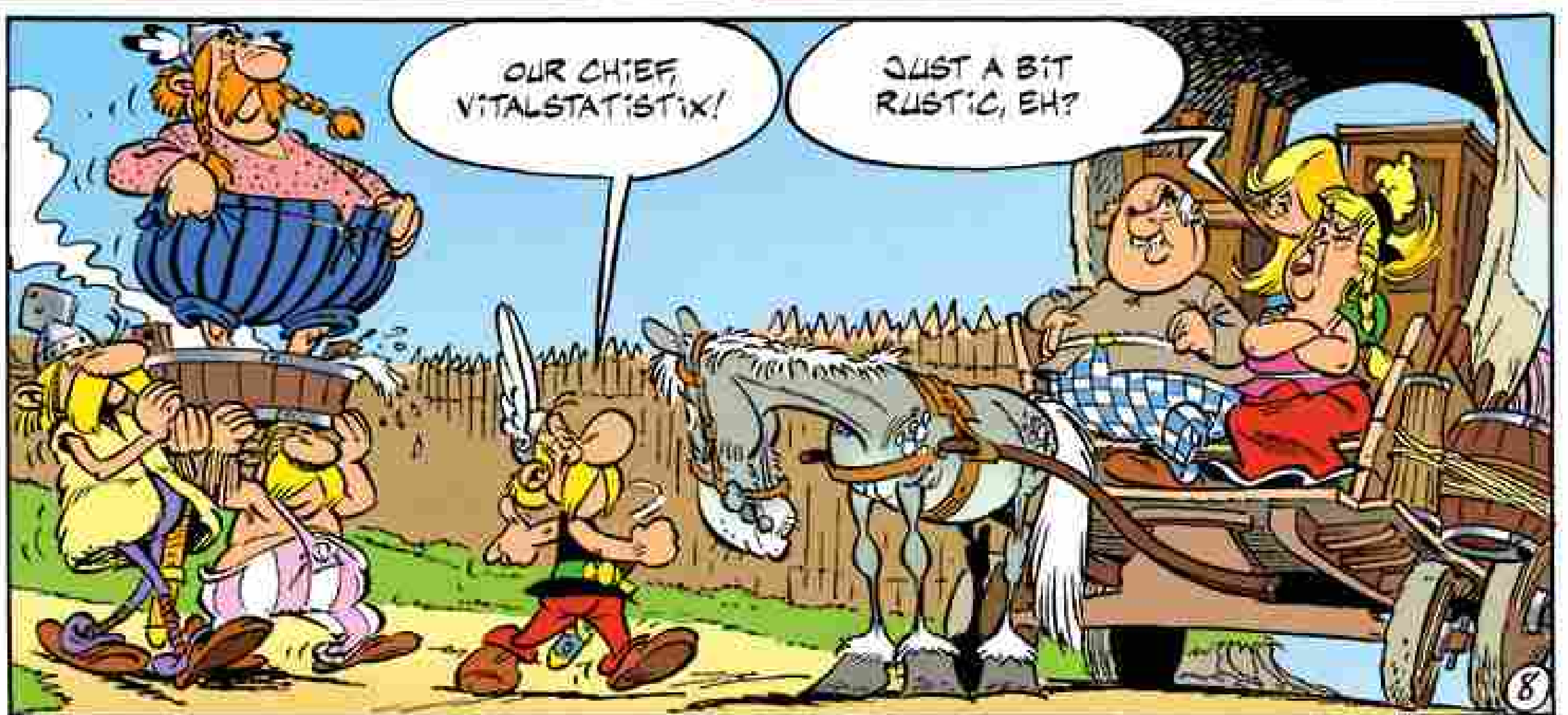
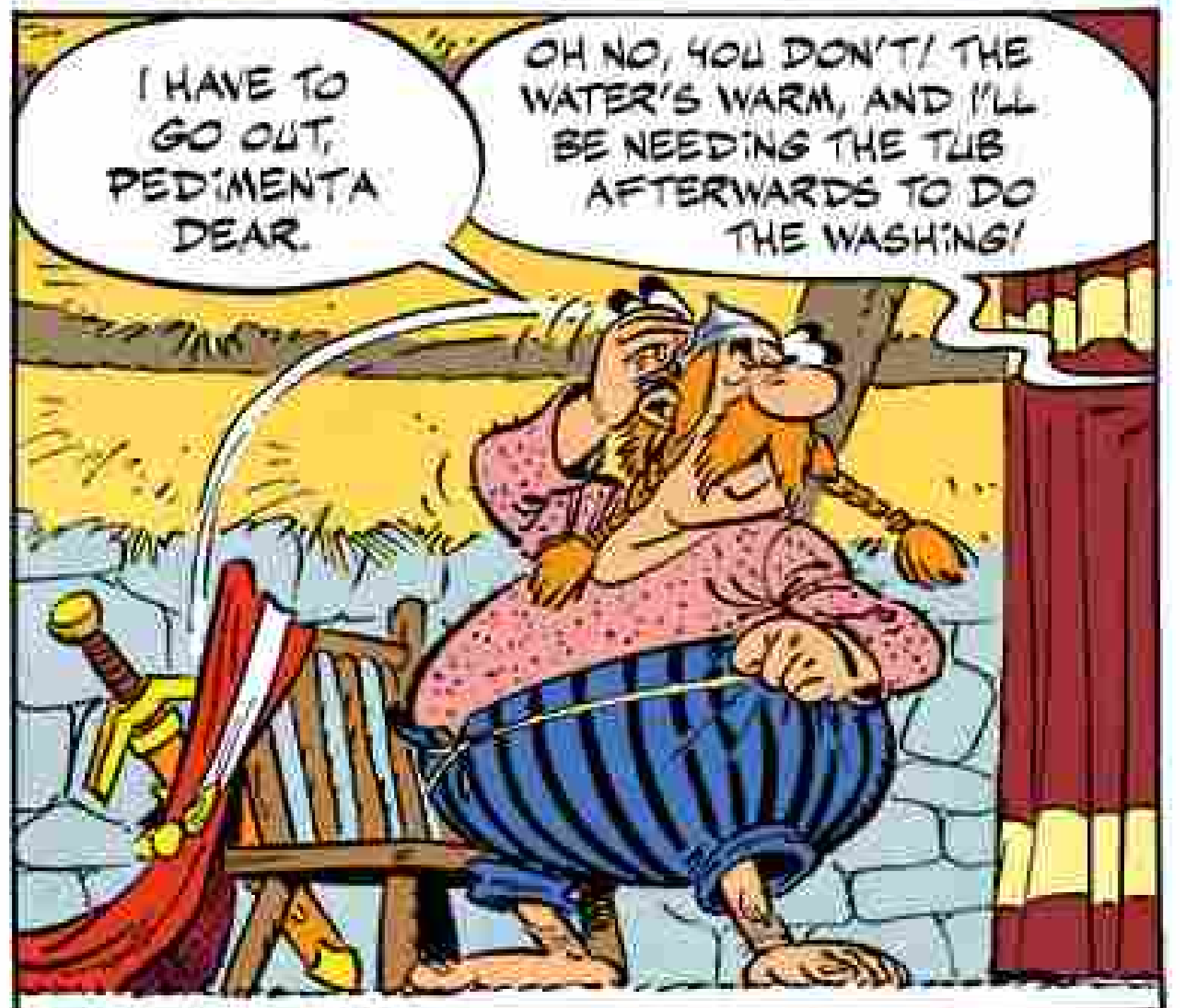
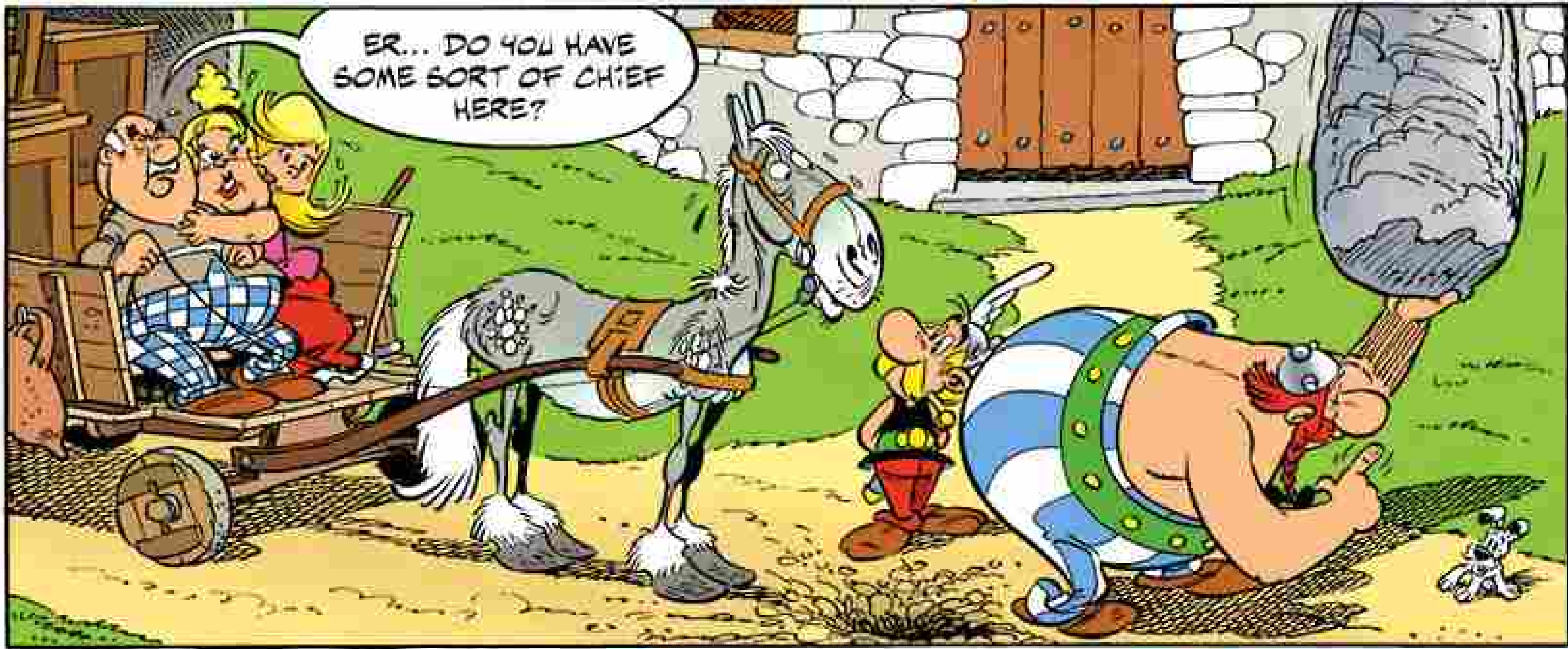
YES, A TYPICAL LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE,
COMPLETE WITH WARRIORS, CRAFTSMEN,
TRADESMEN, DRUID AND BARD...

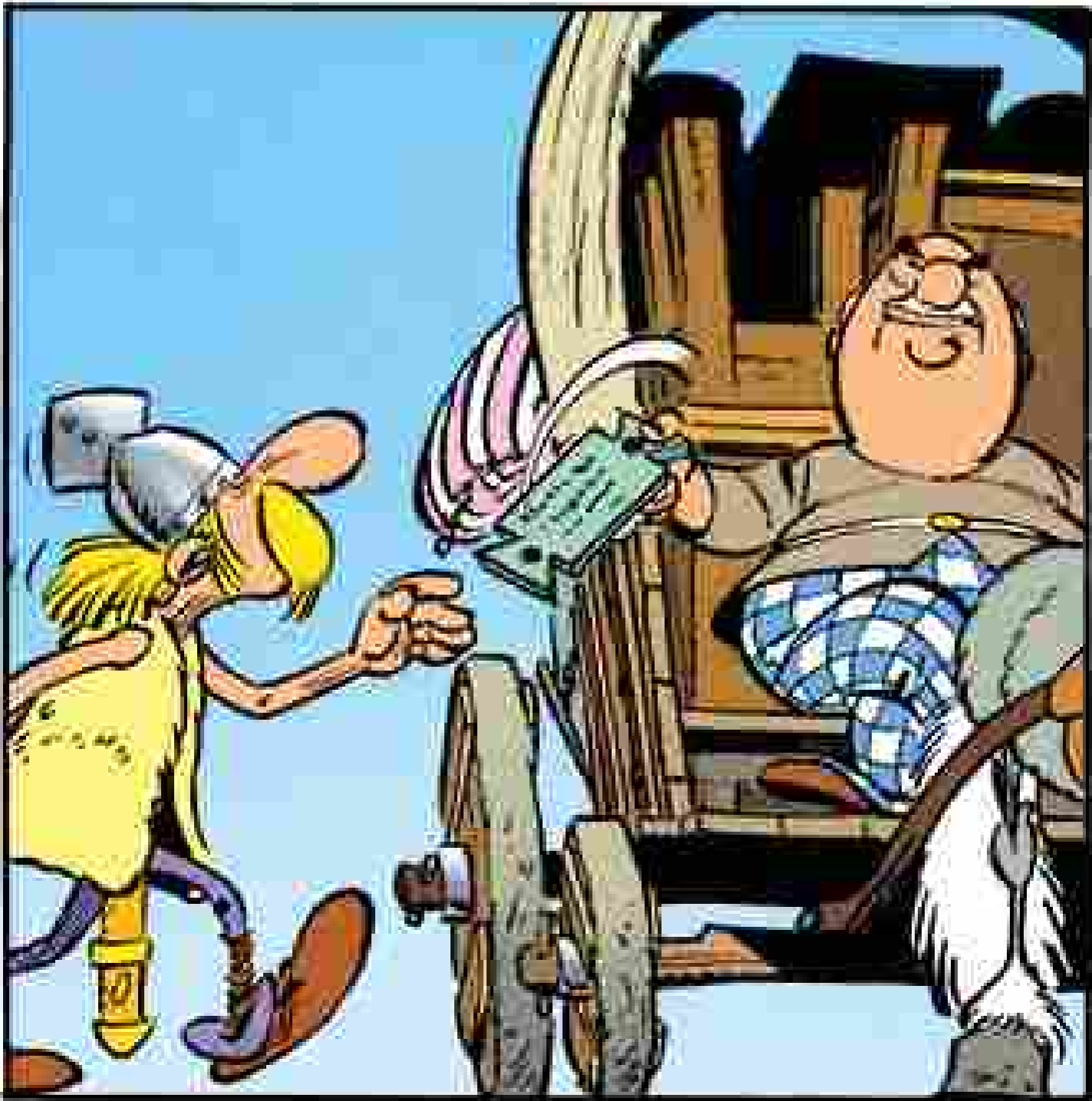


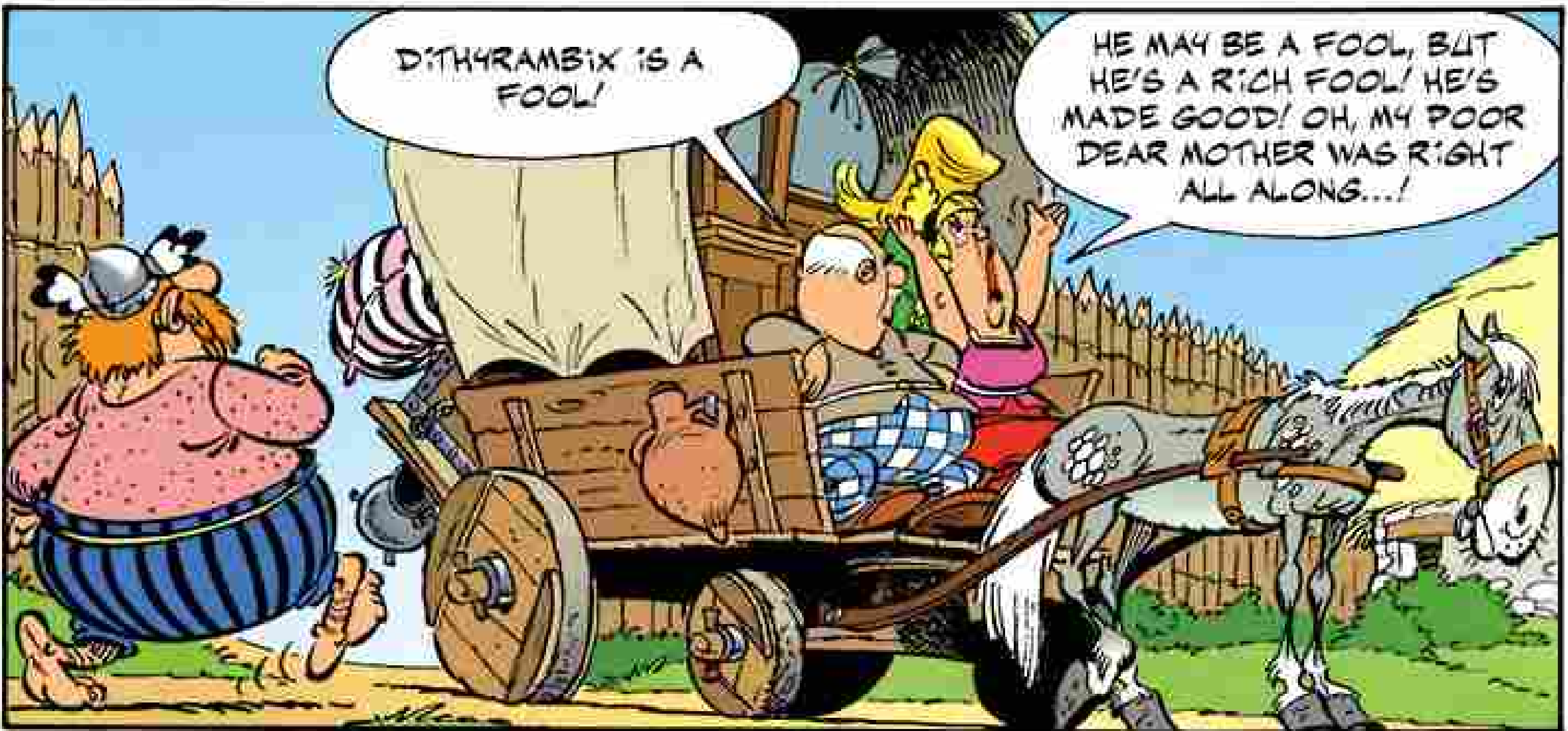
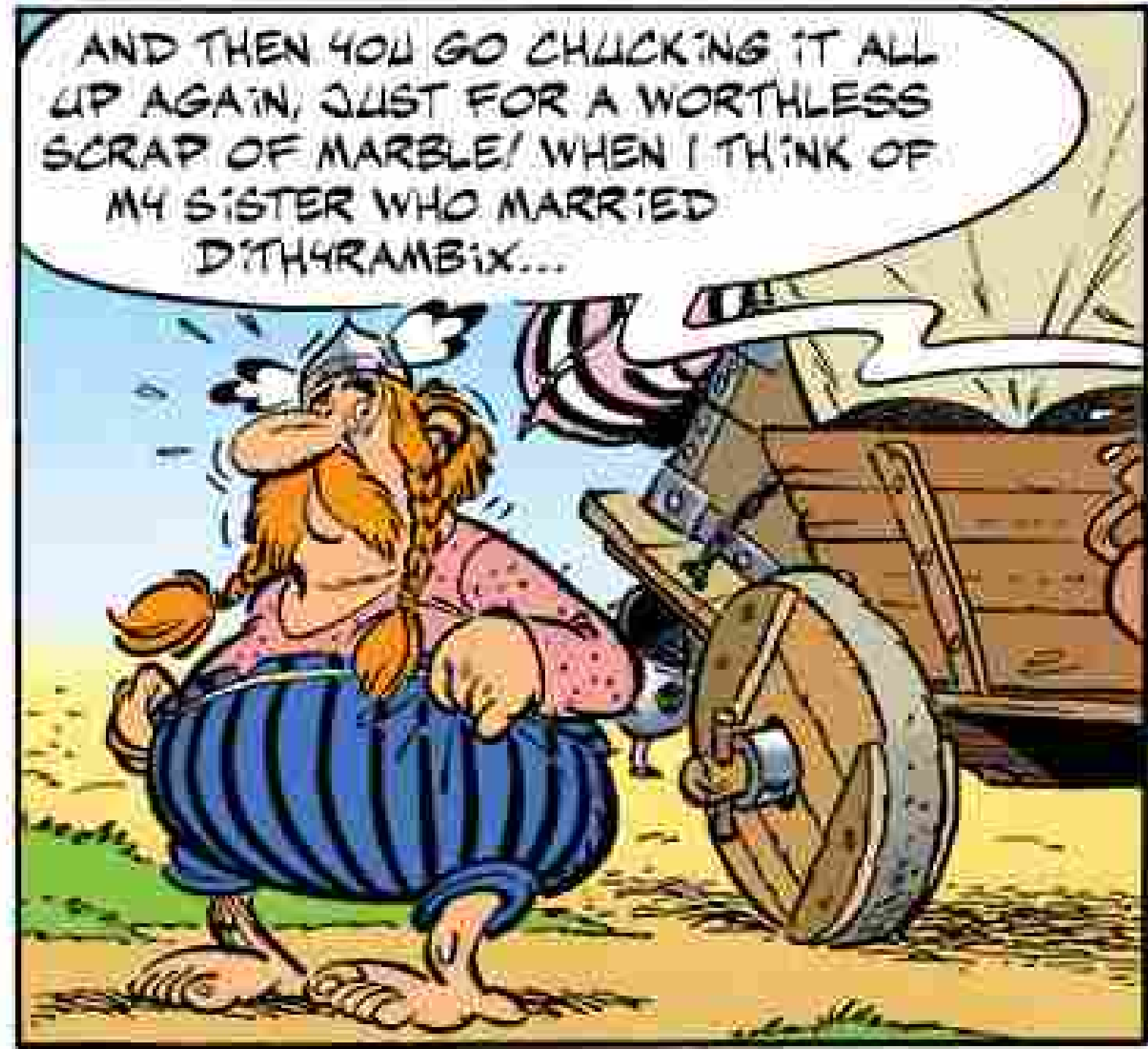
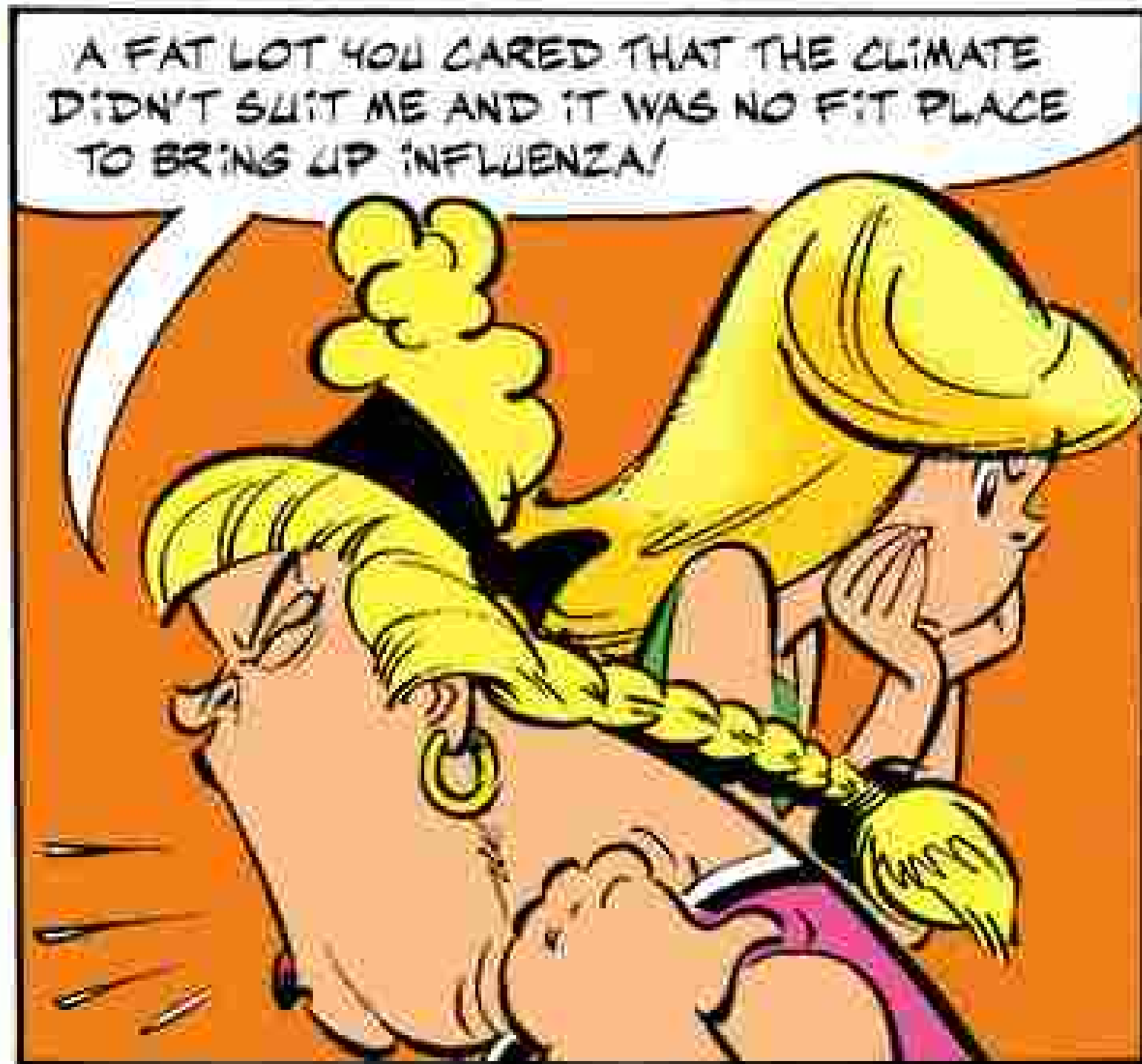
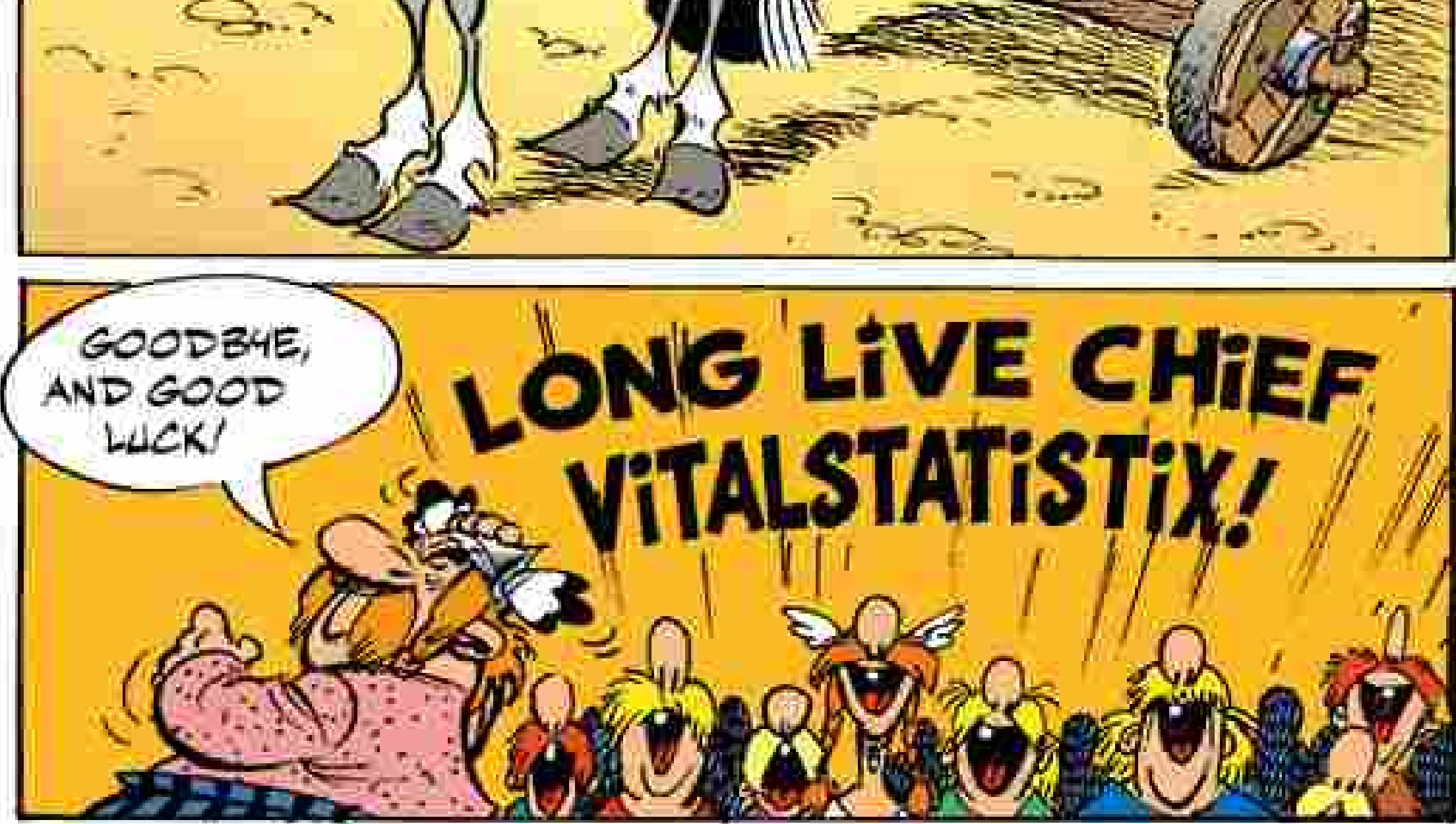
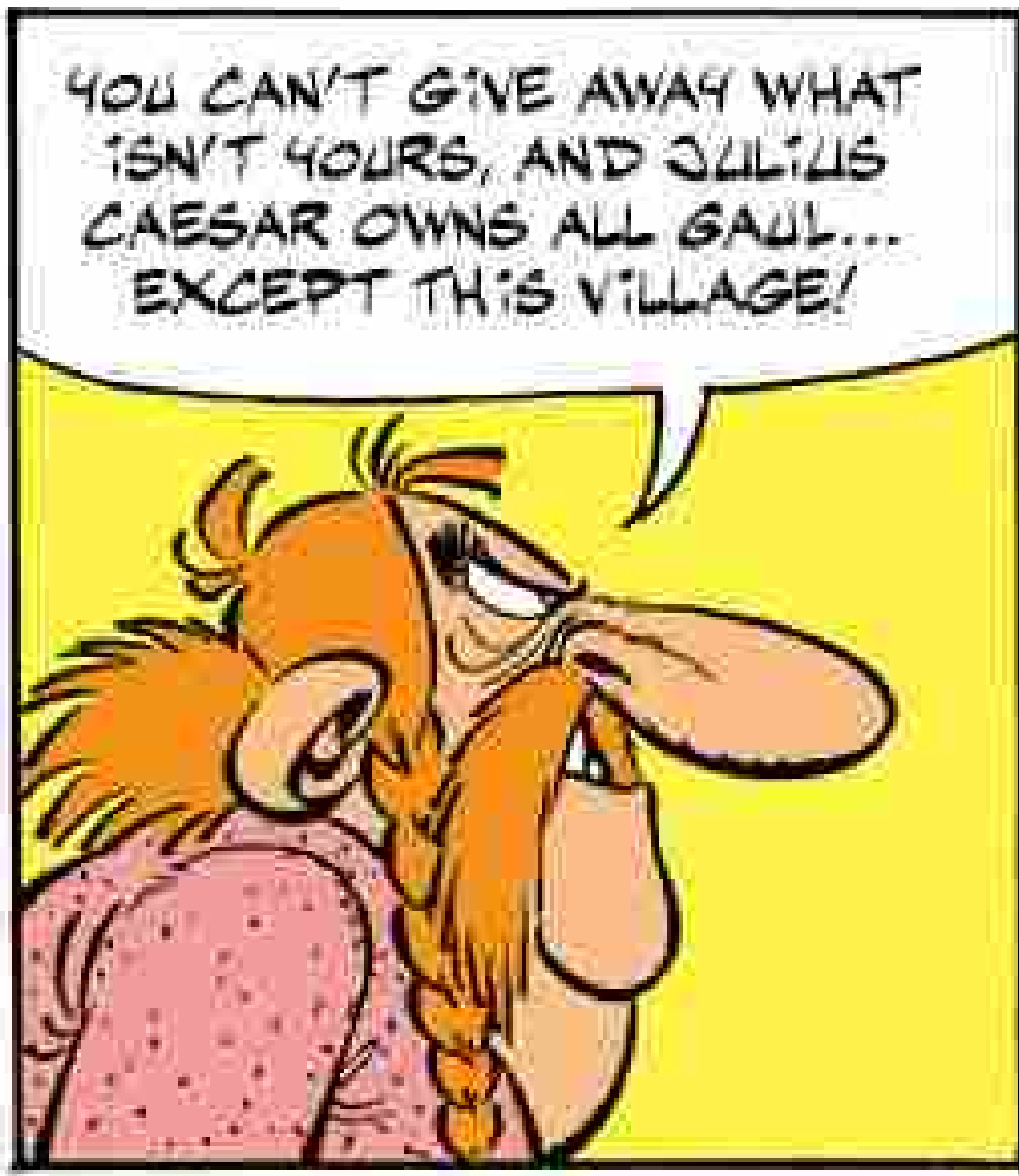
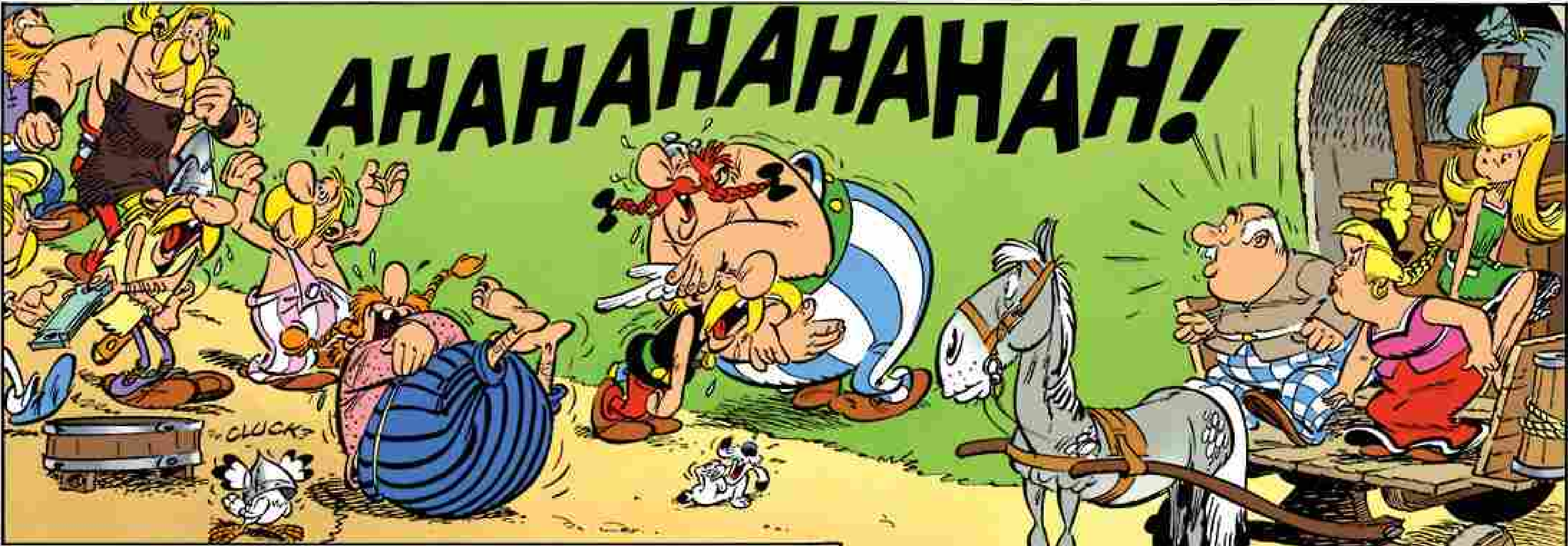
...AND A CHIEF WHO IS
EASYGOING, THOUGH INCLINED
TO STAND ON CEREMONY...

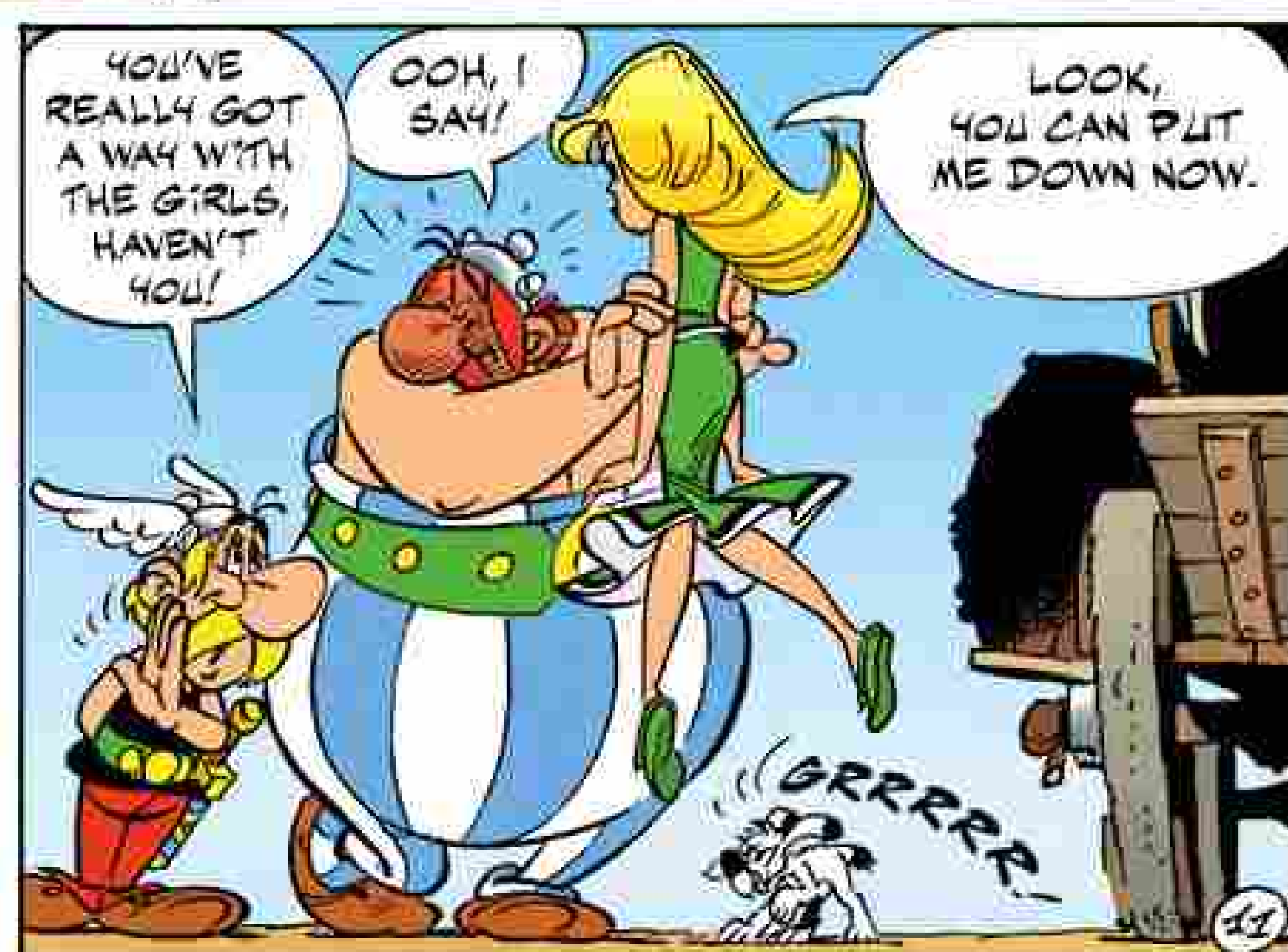
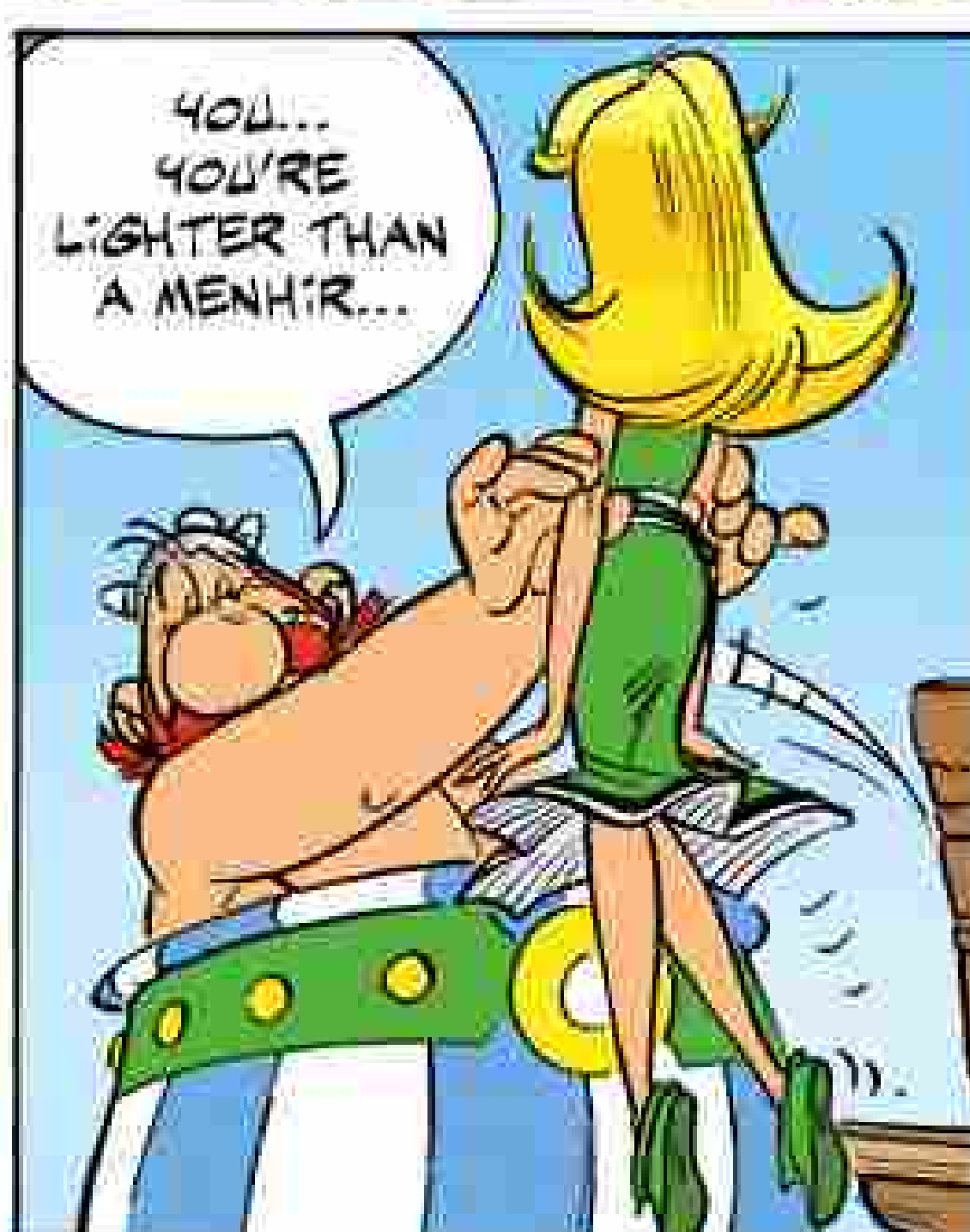
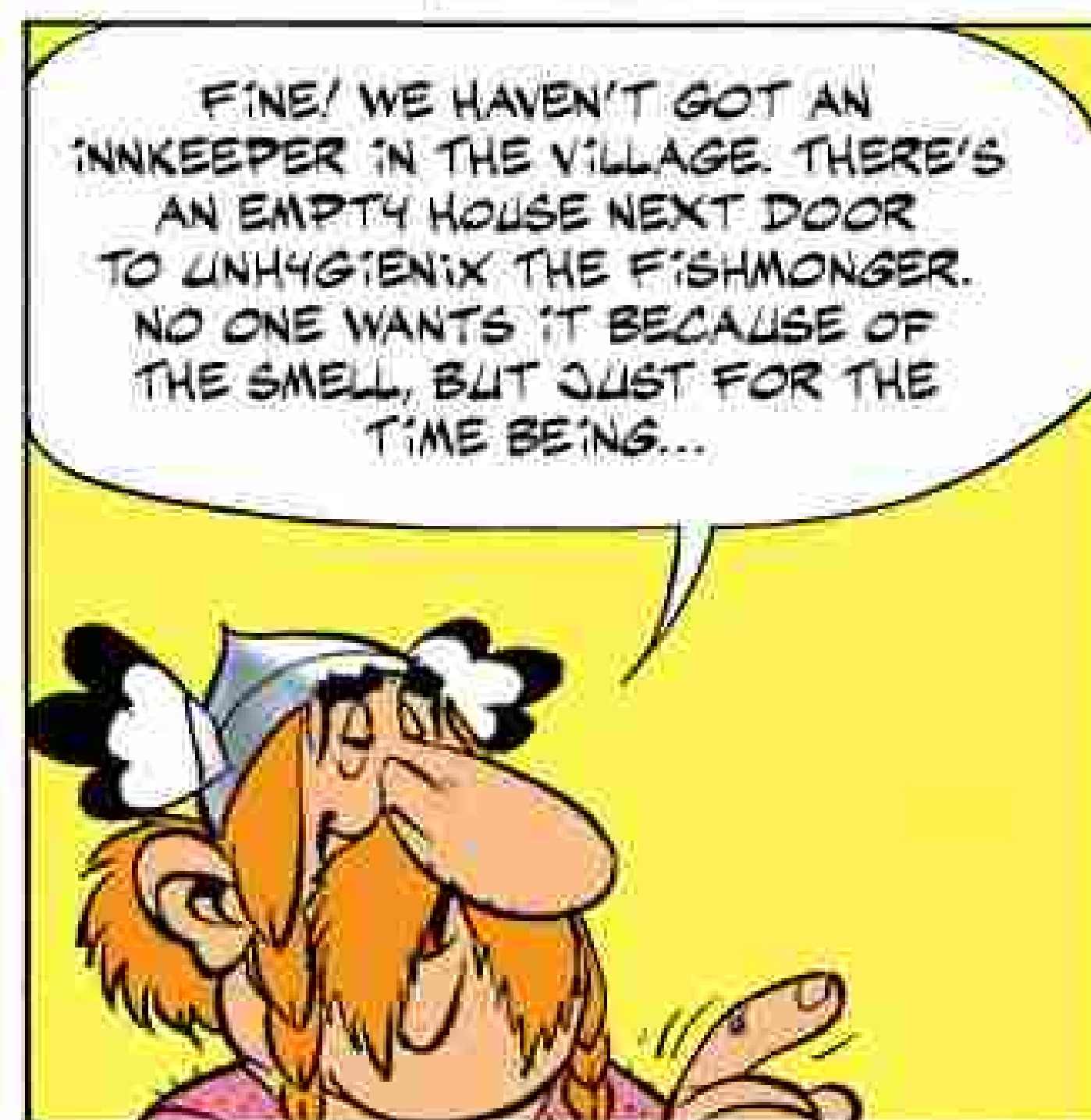
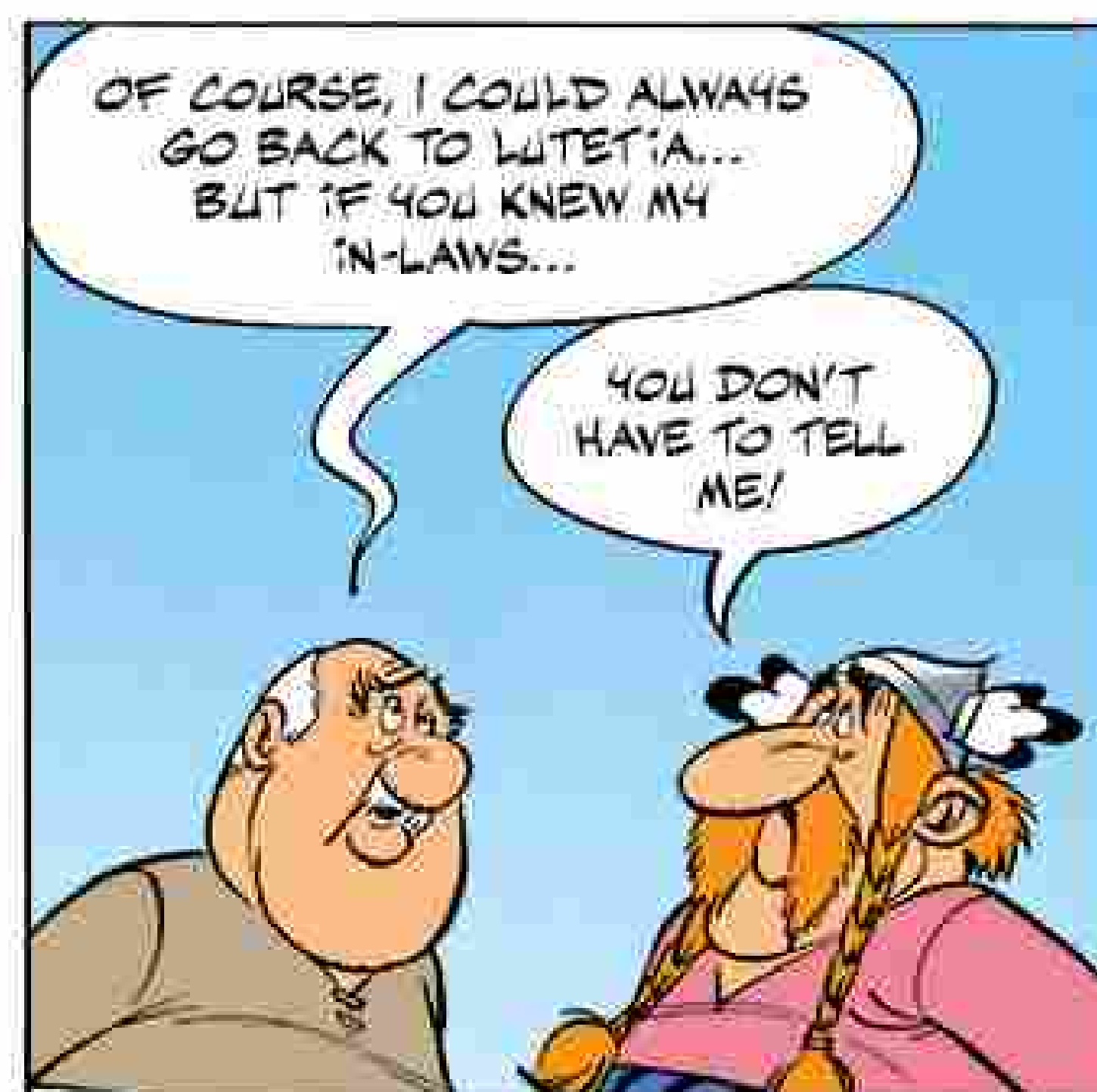








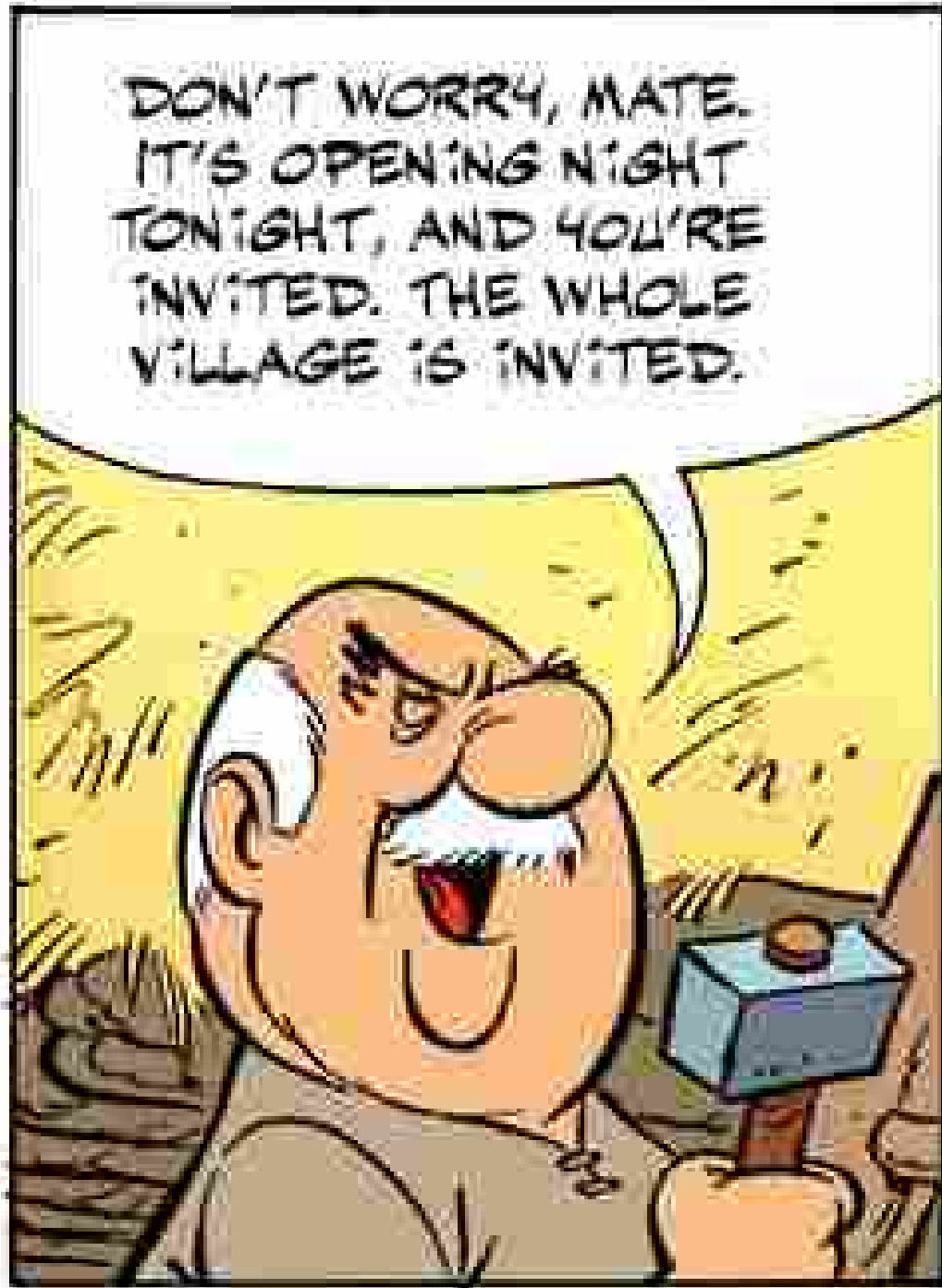
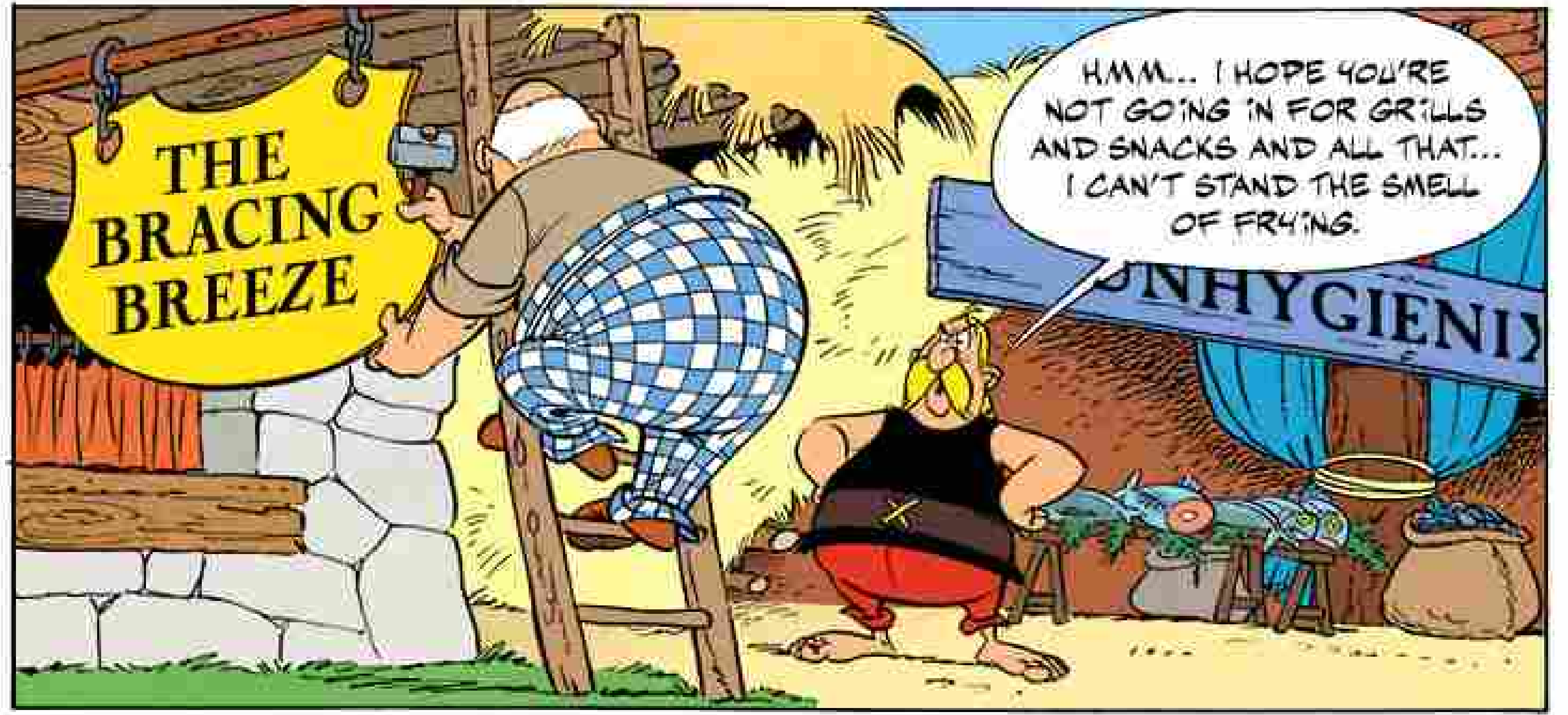




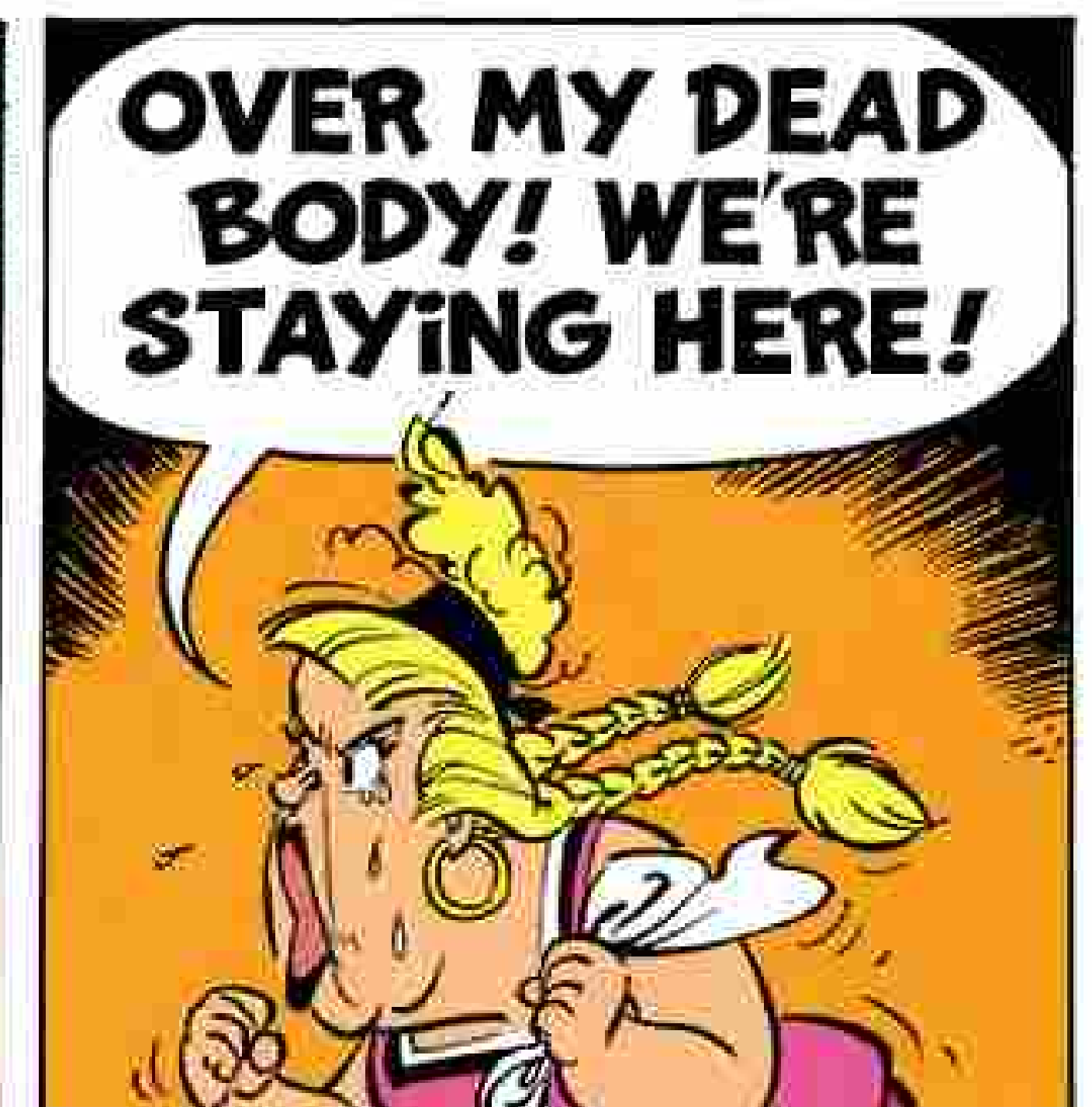
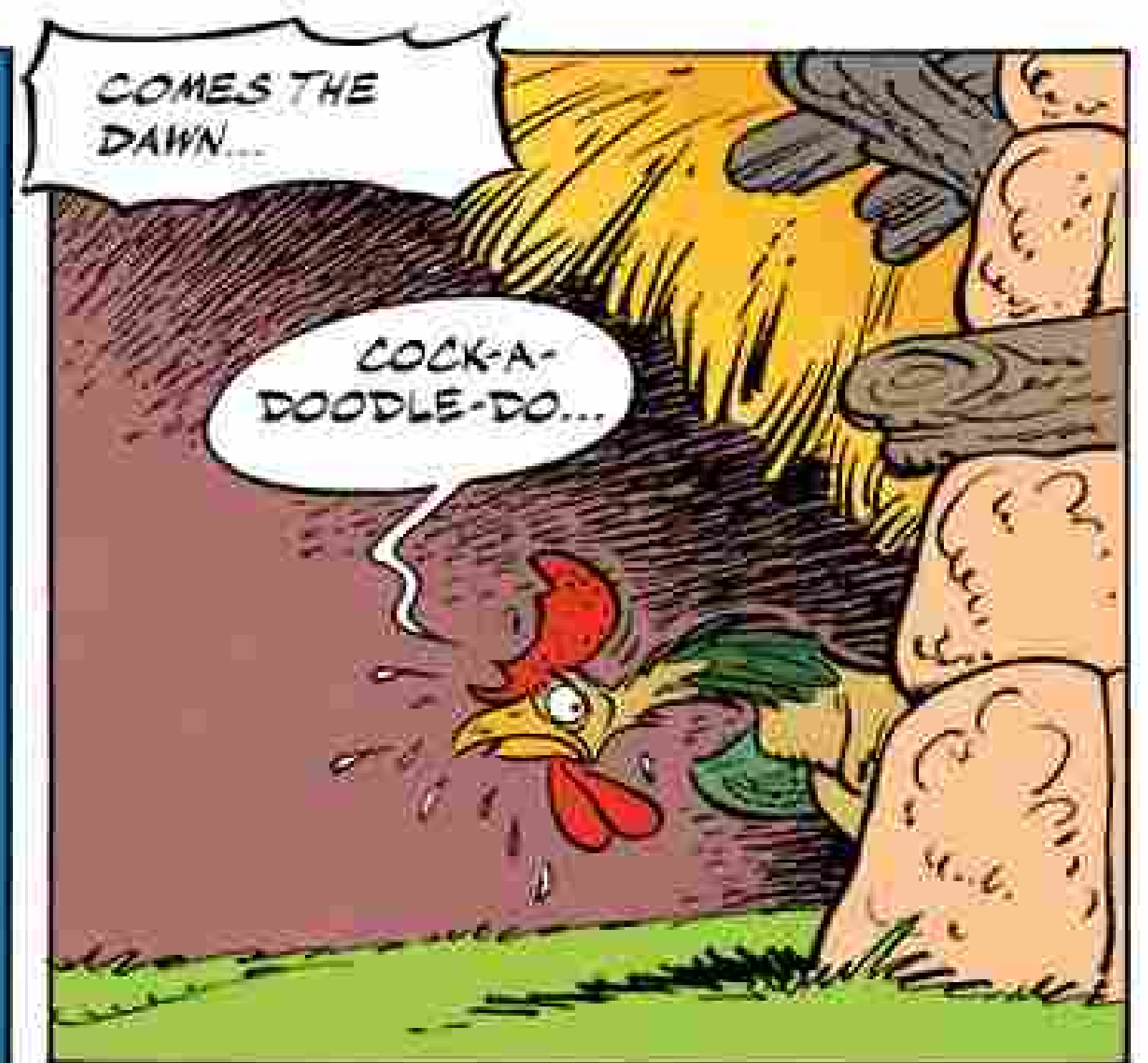


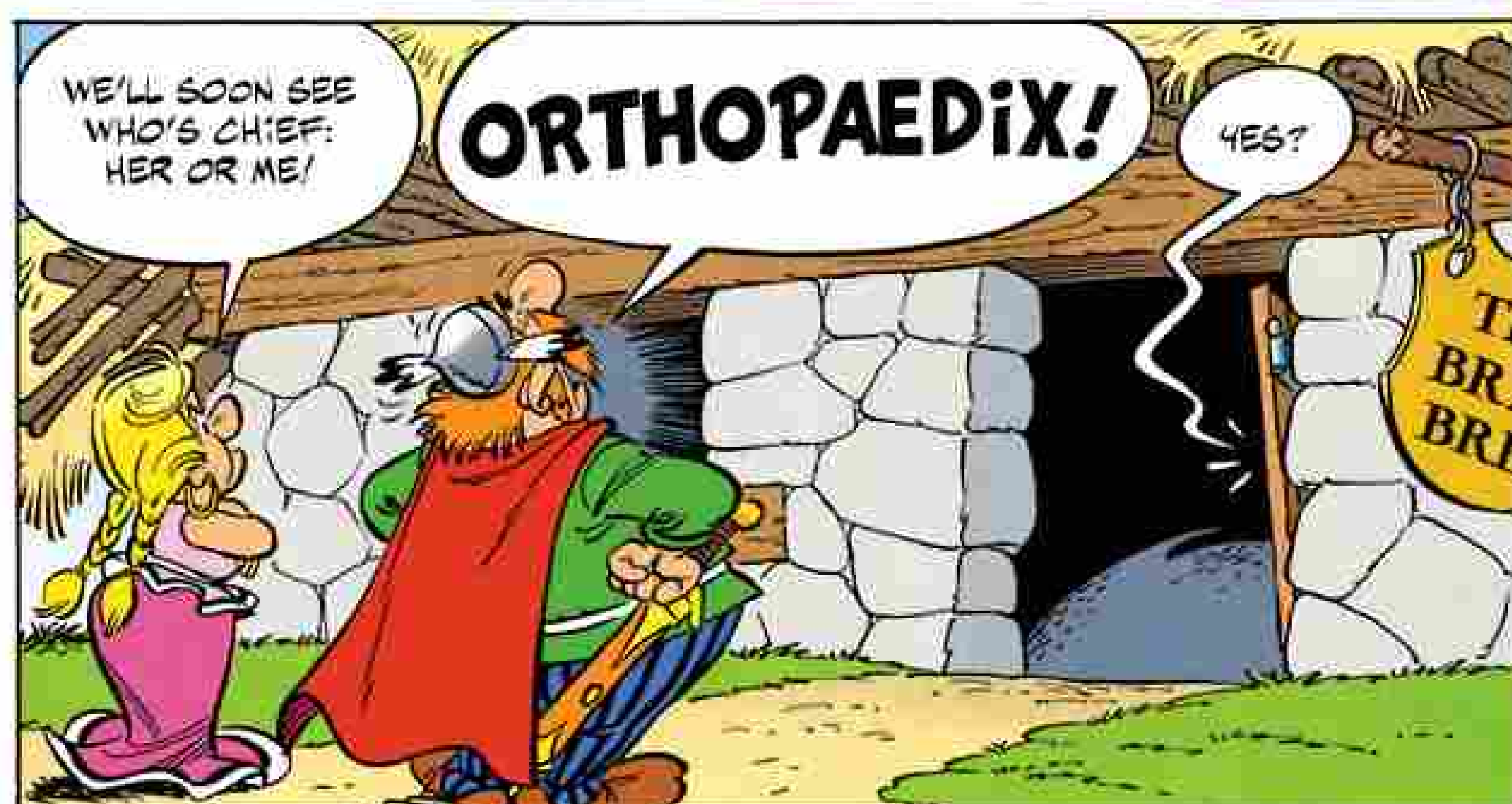
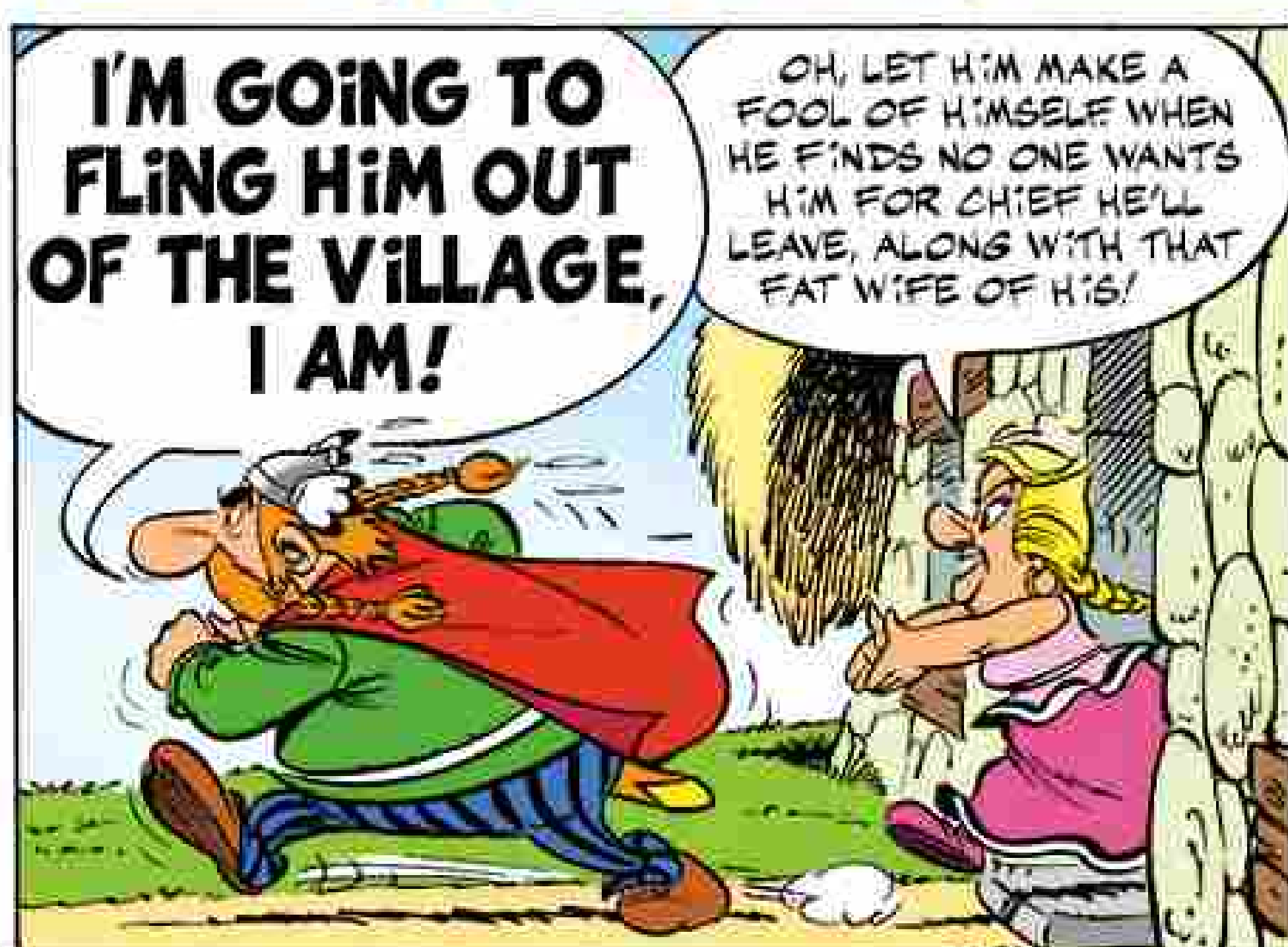
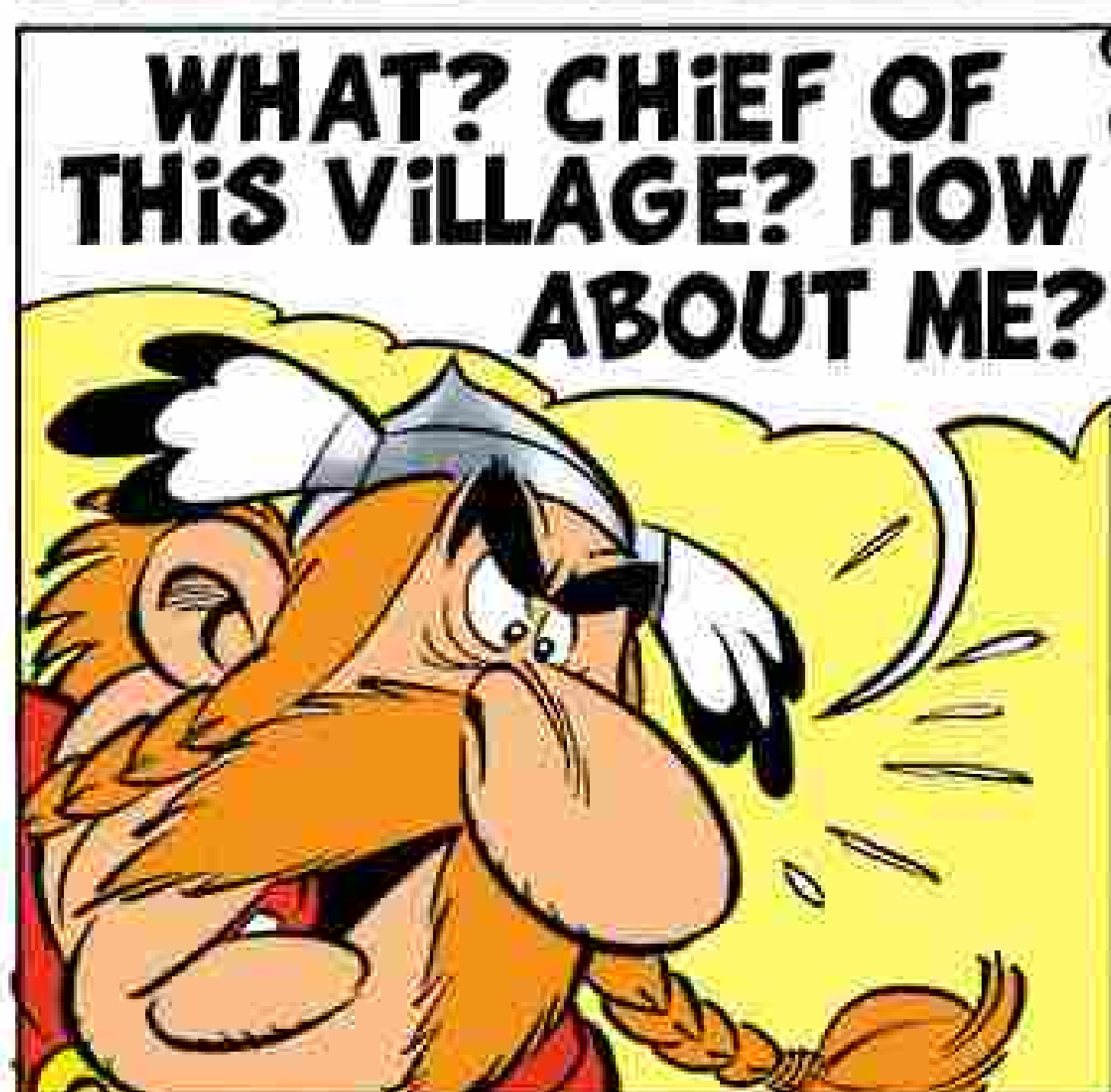
WHAT? YOU MEAN WE'VE LEFT OUR NICE INN AT ARAUSIO JUST TO OPEN ANOTHER IN THIS WRETCHED VILLAGE, WHEN THE WHOLE PLACE BELONGS TO US ANYWAY?

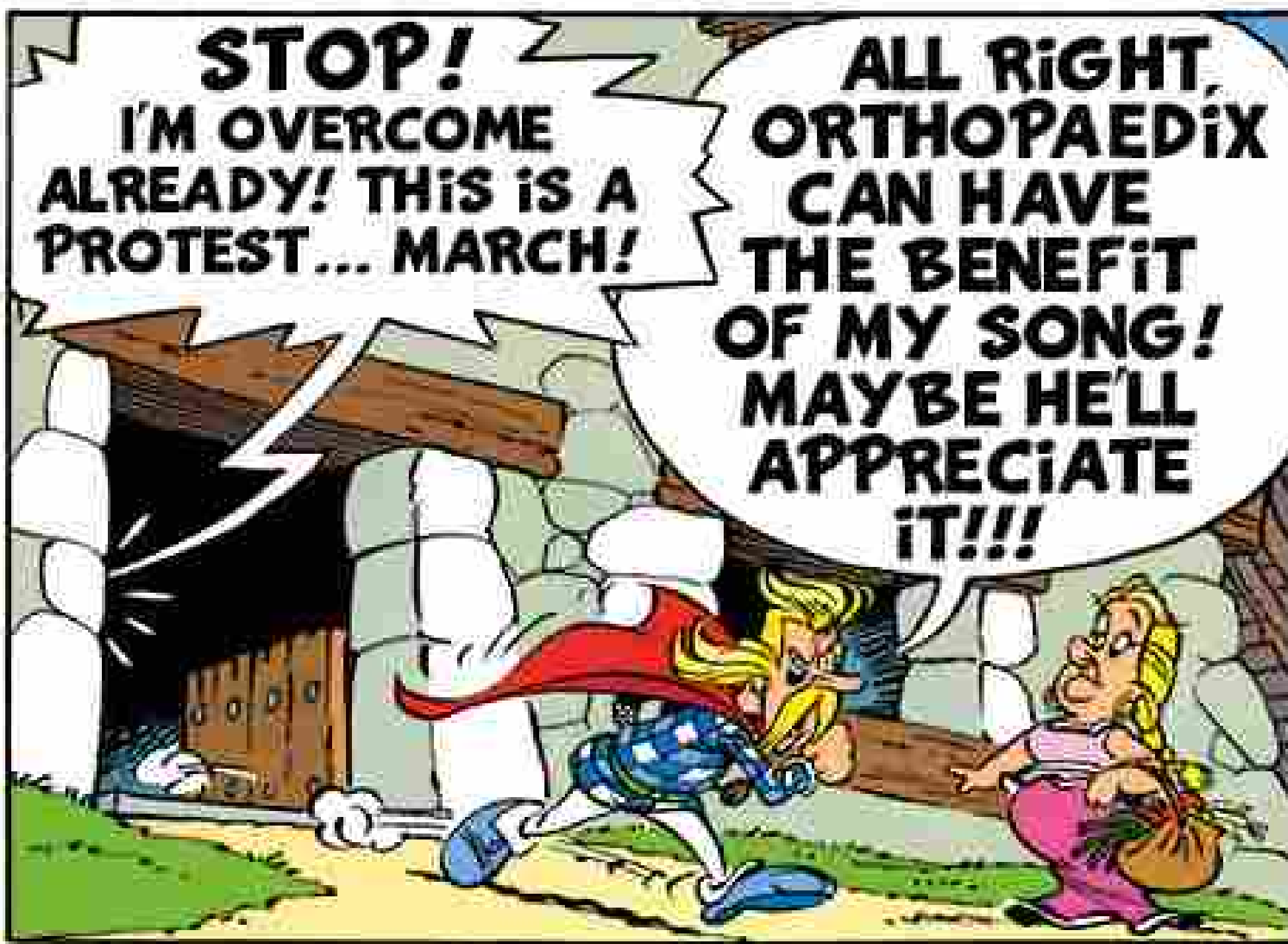


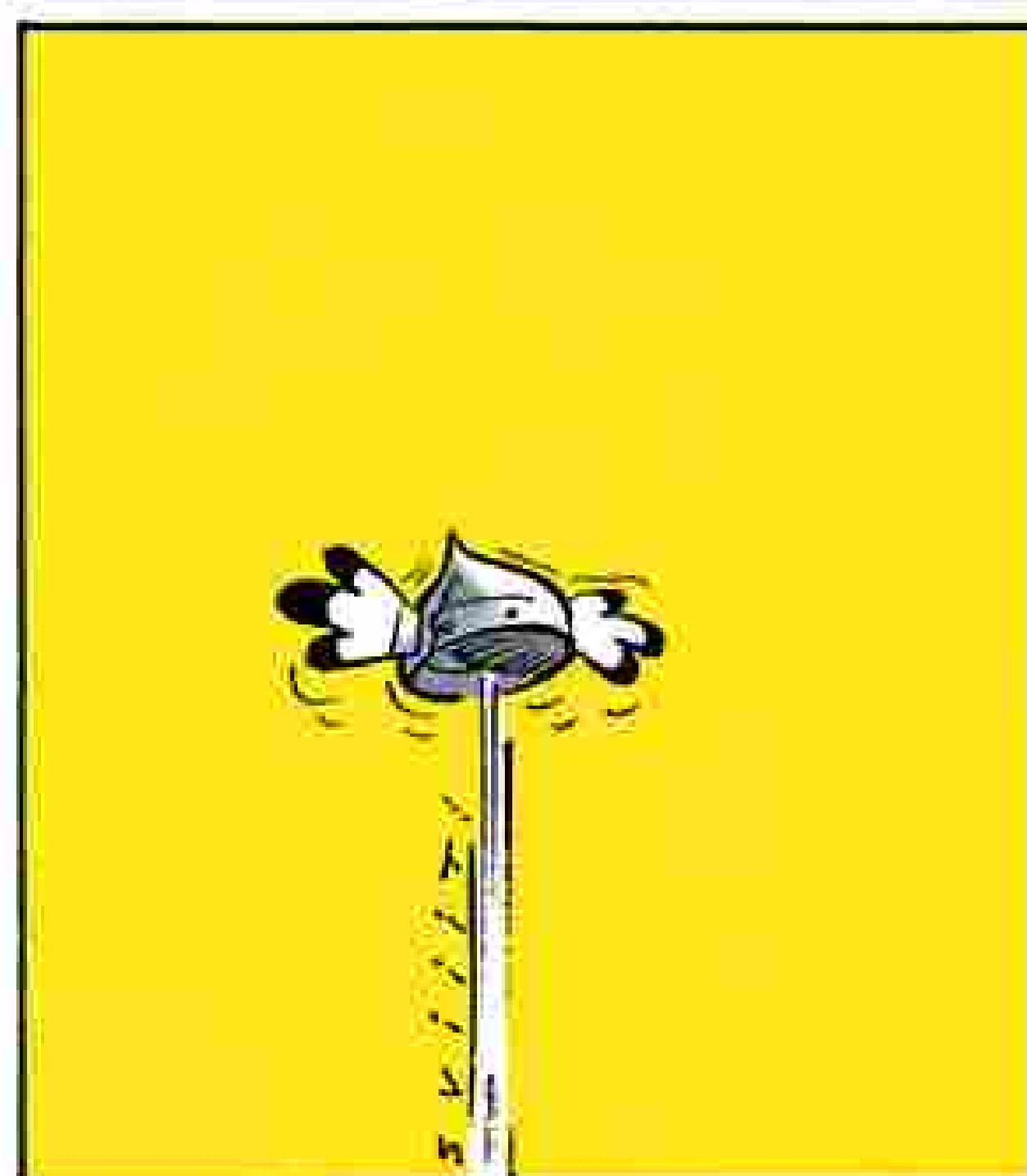
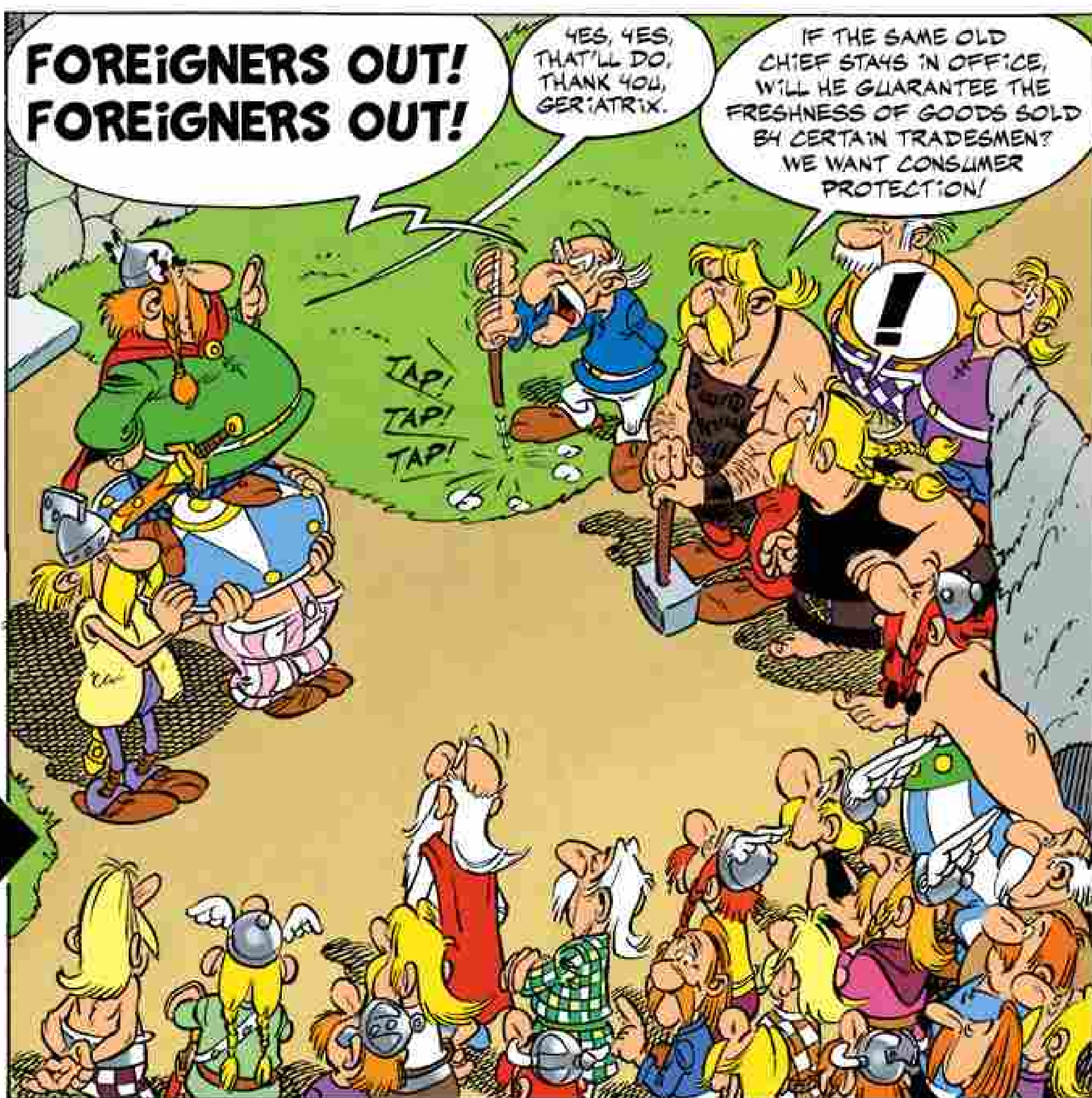


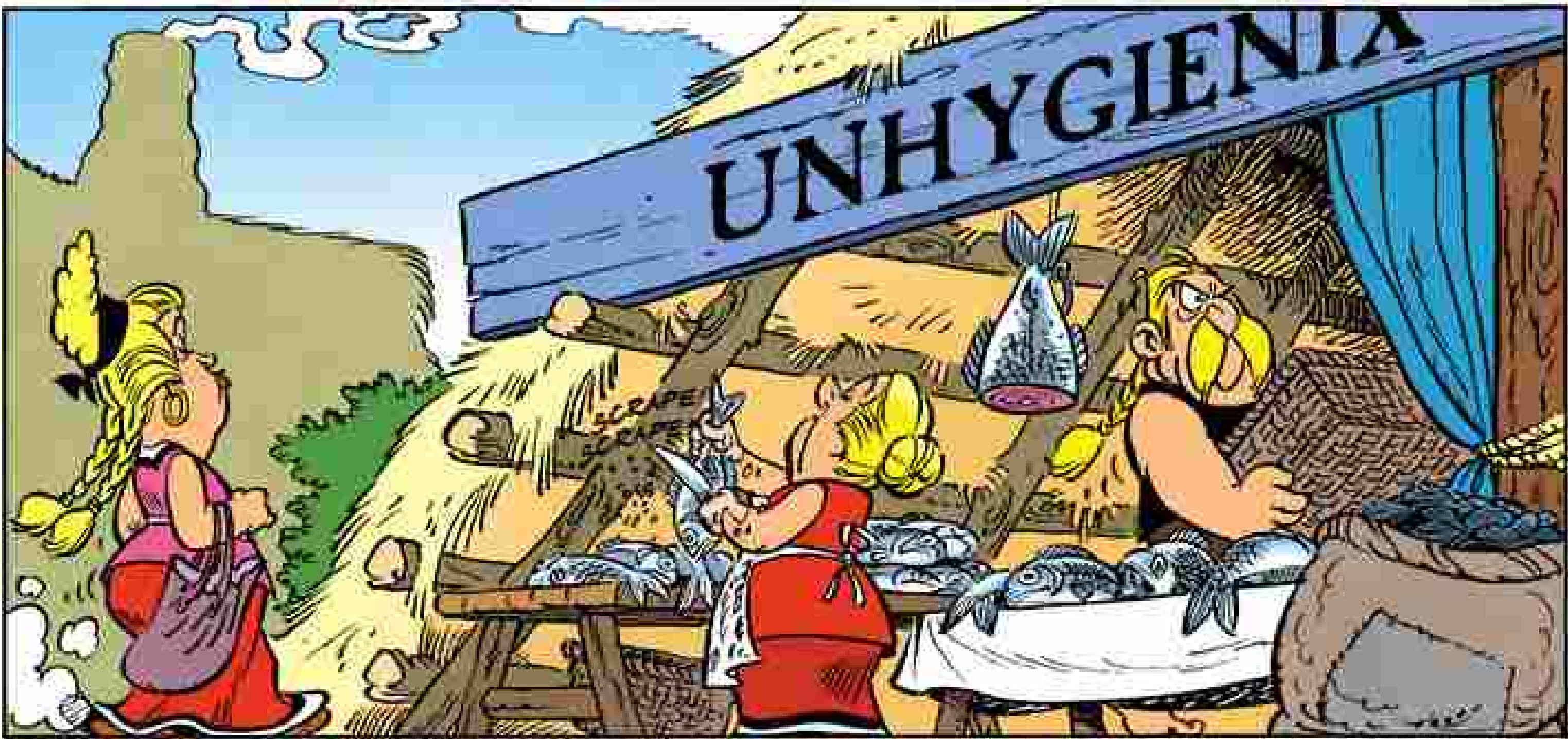


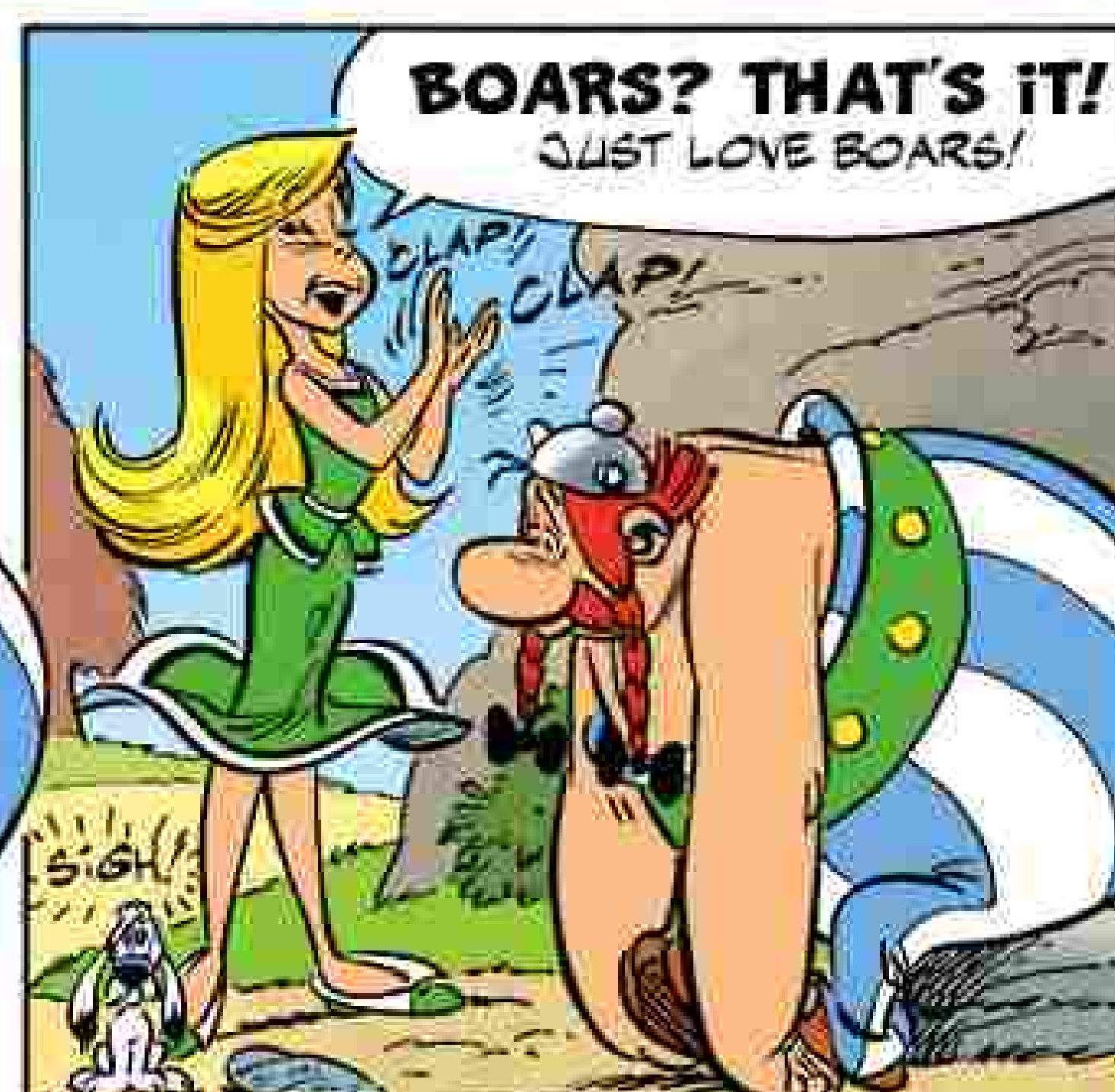
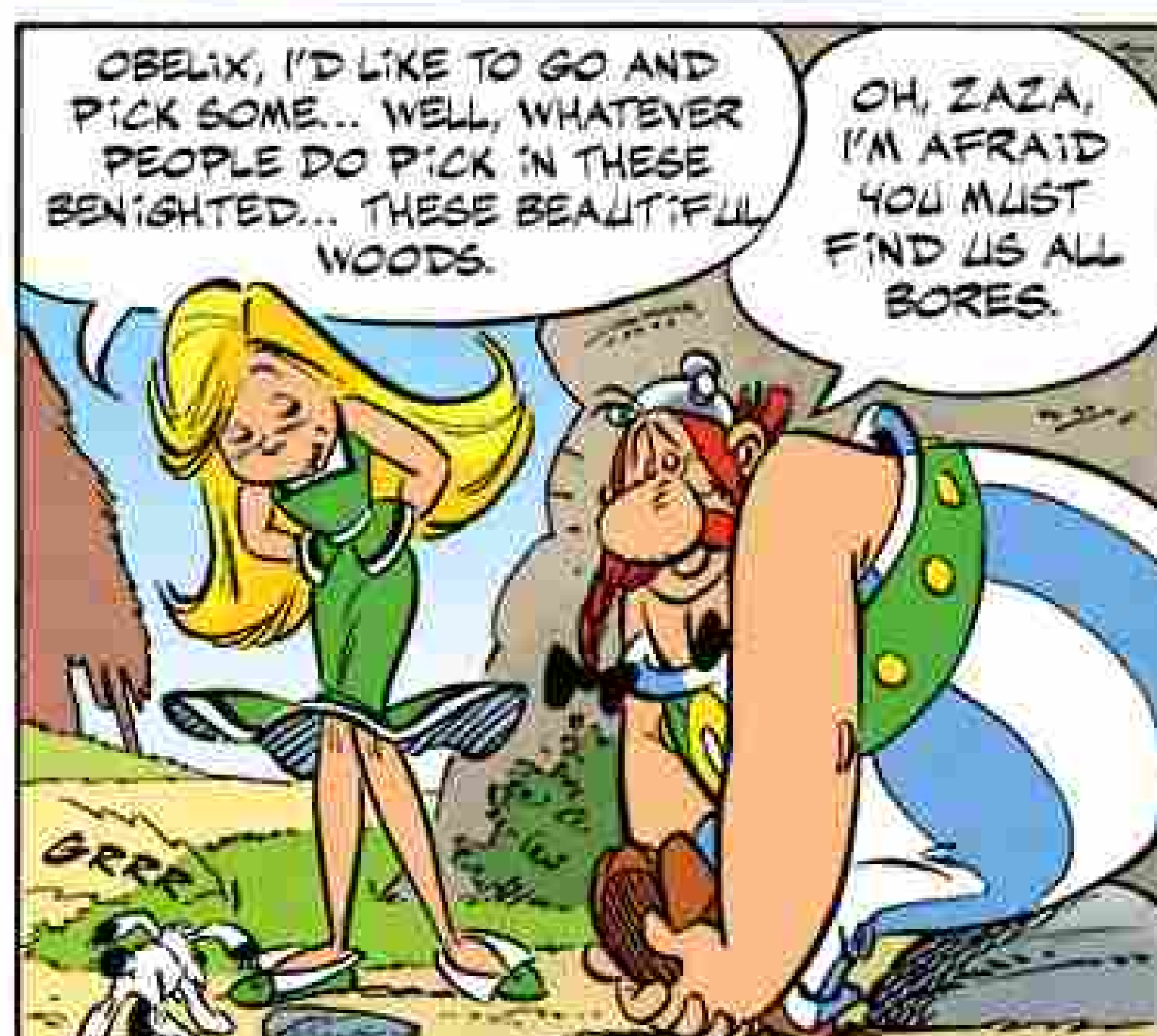




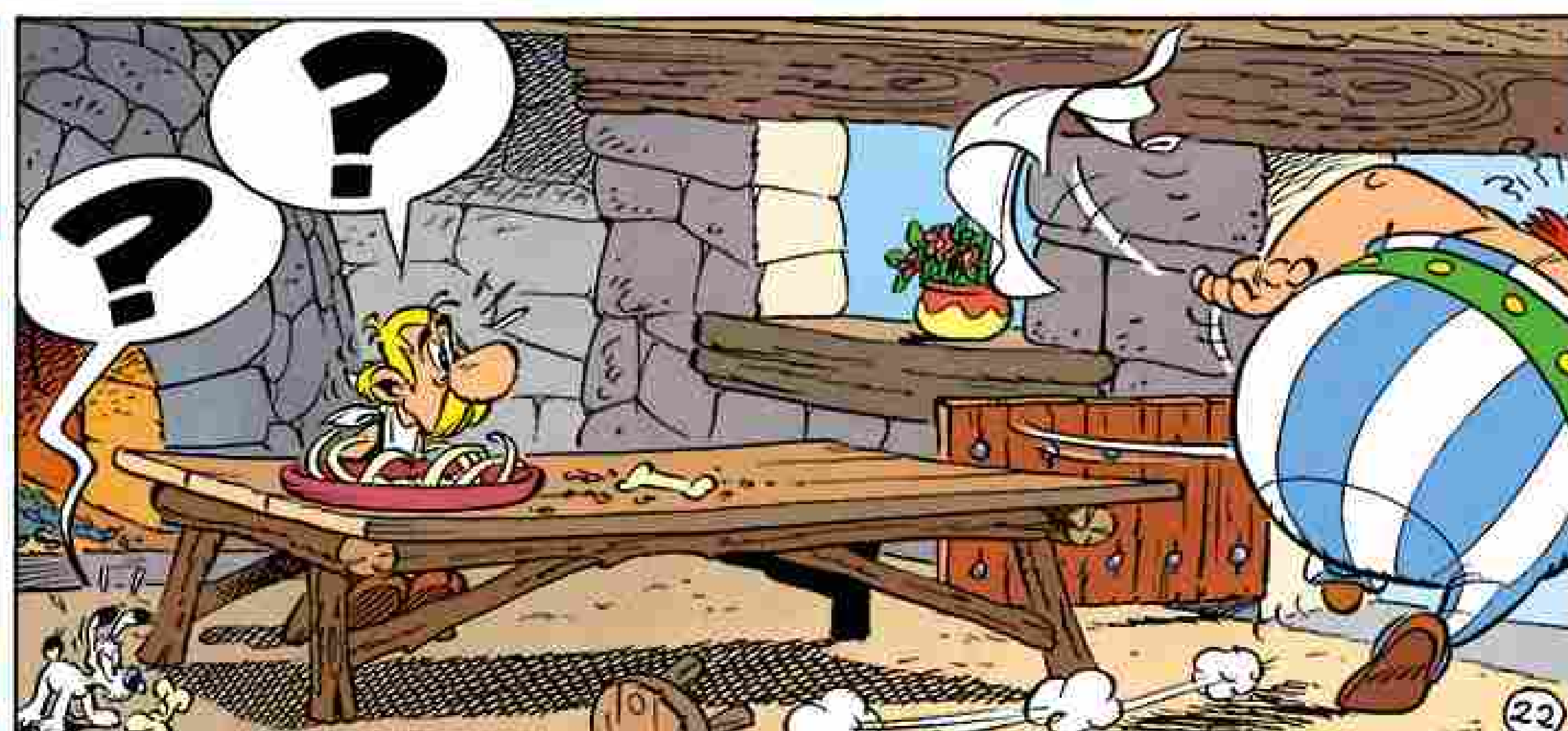
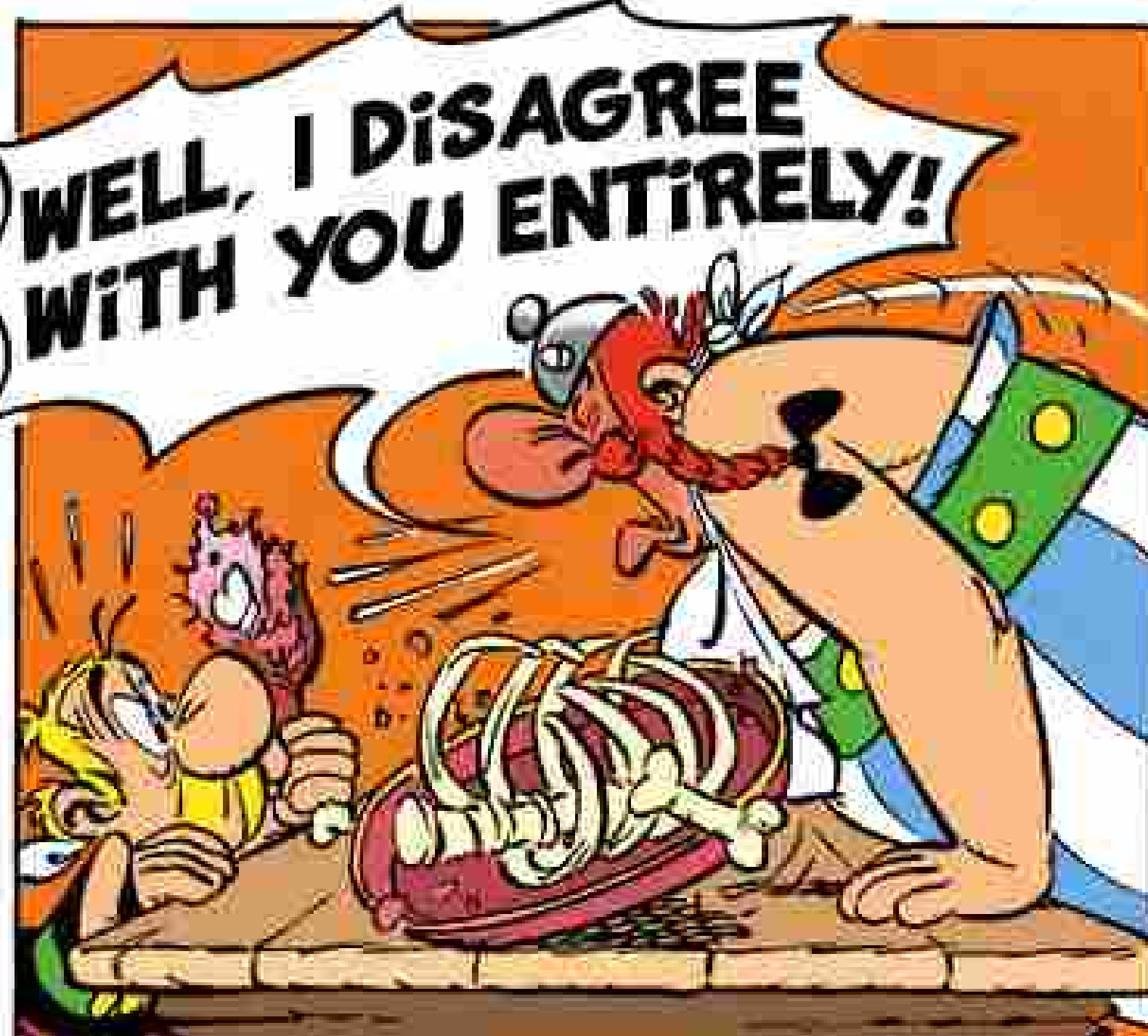
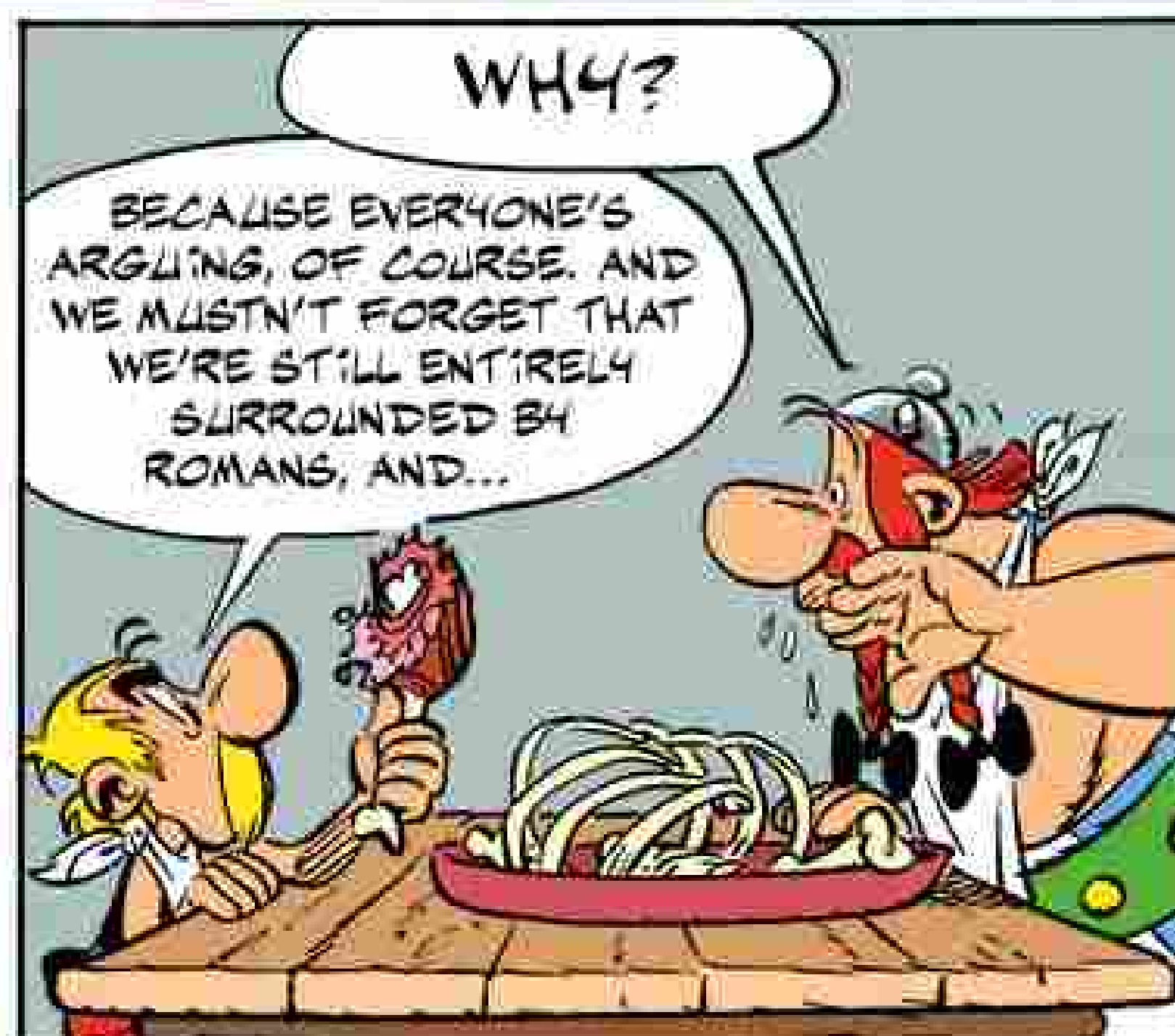
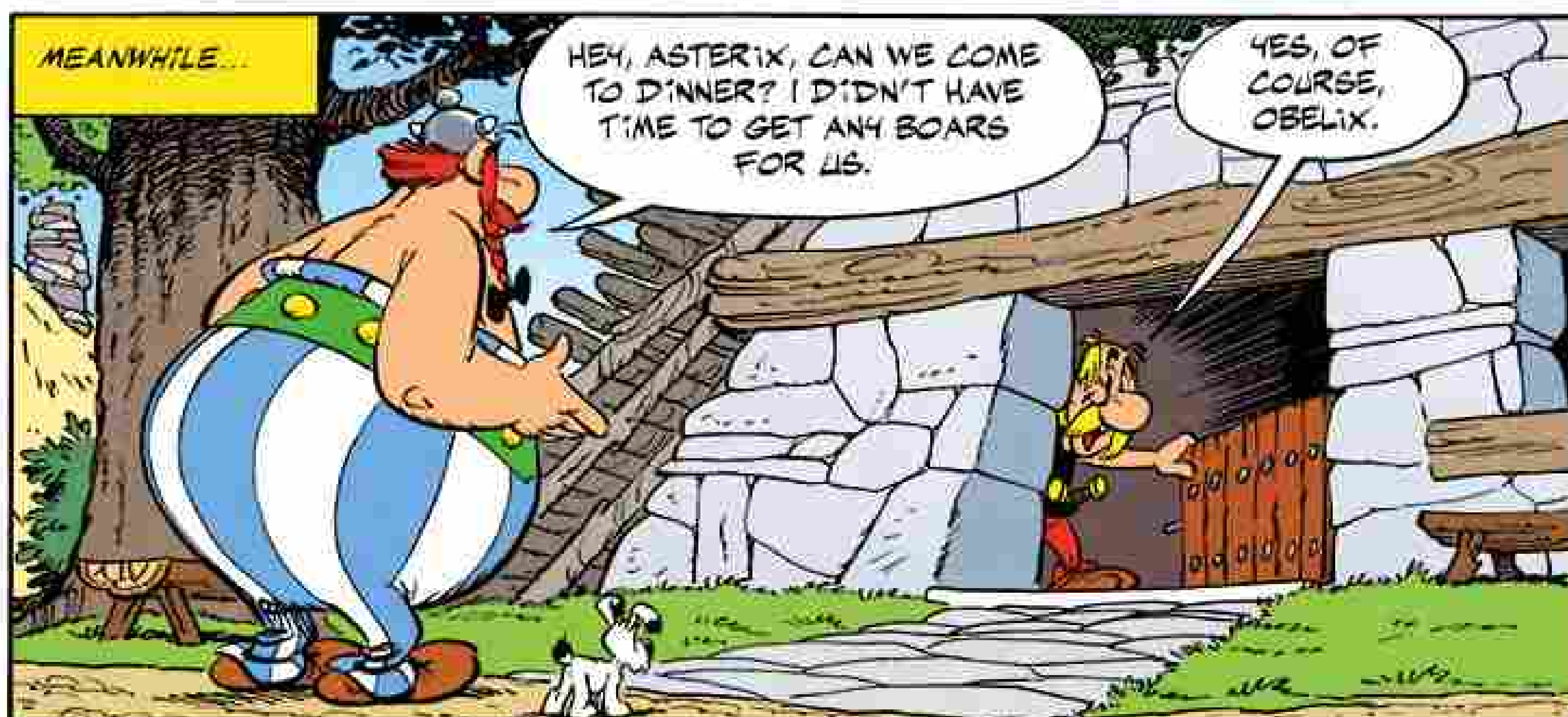
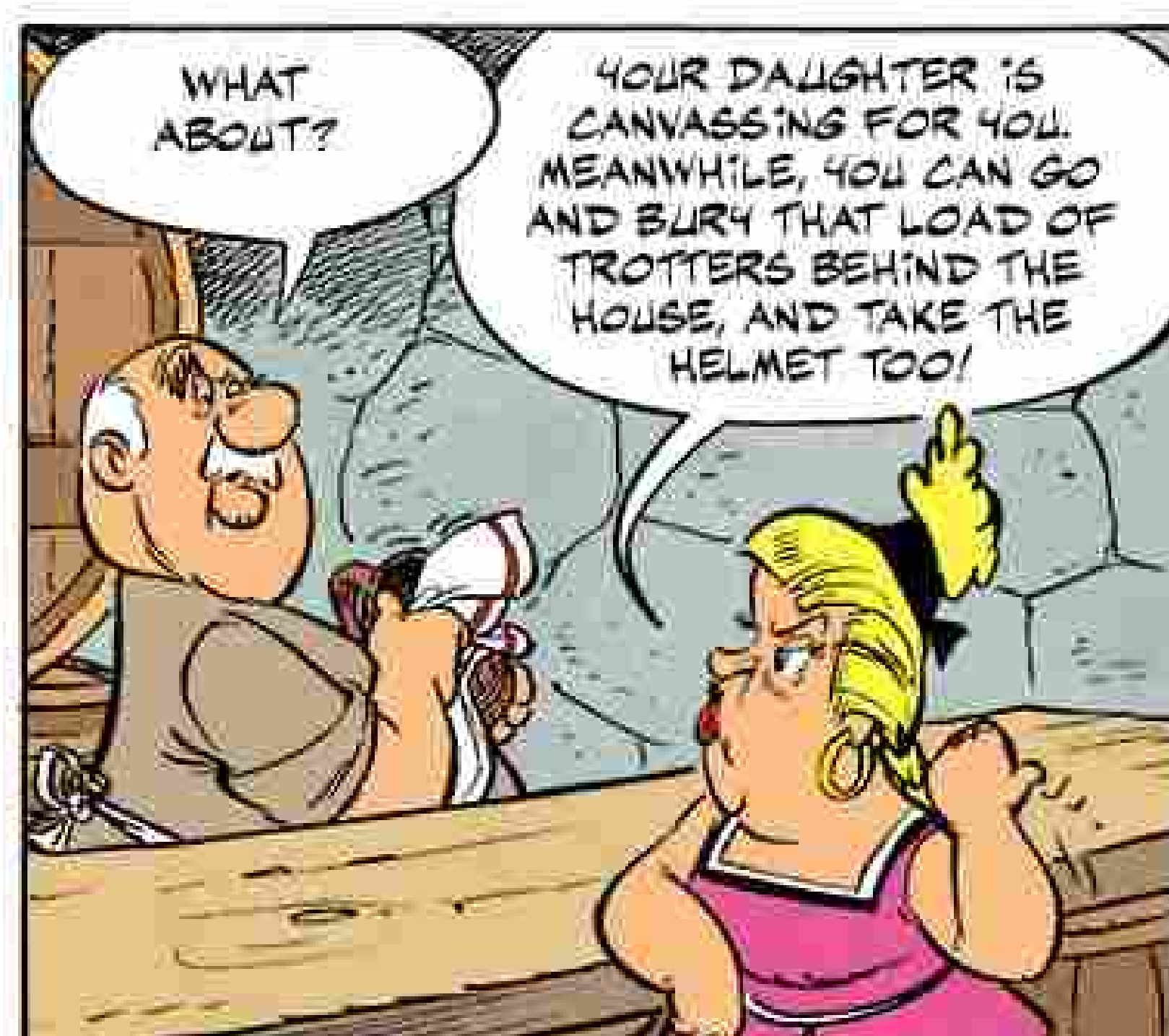




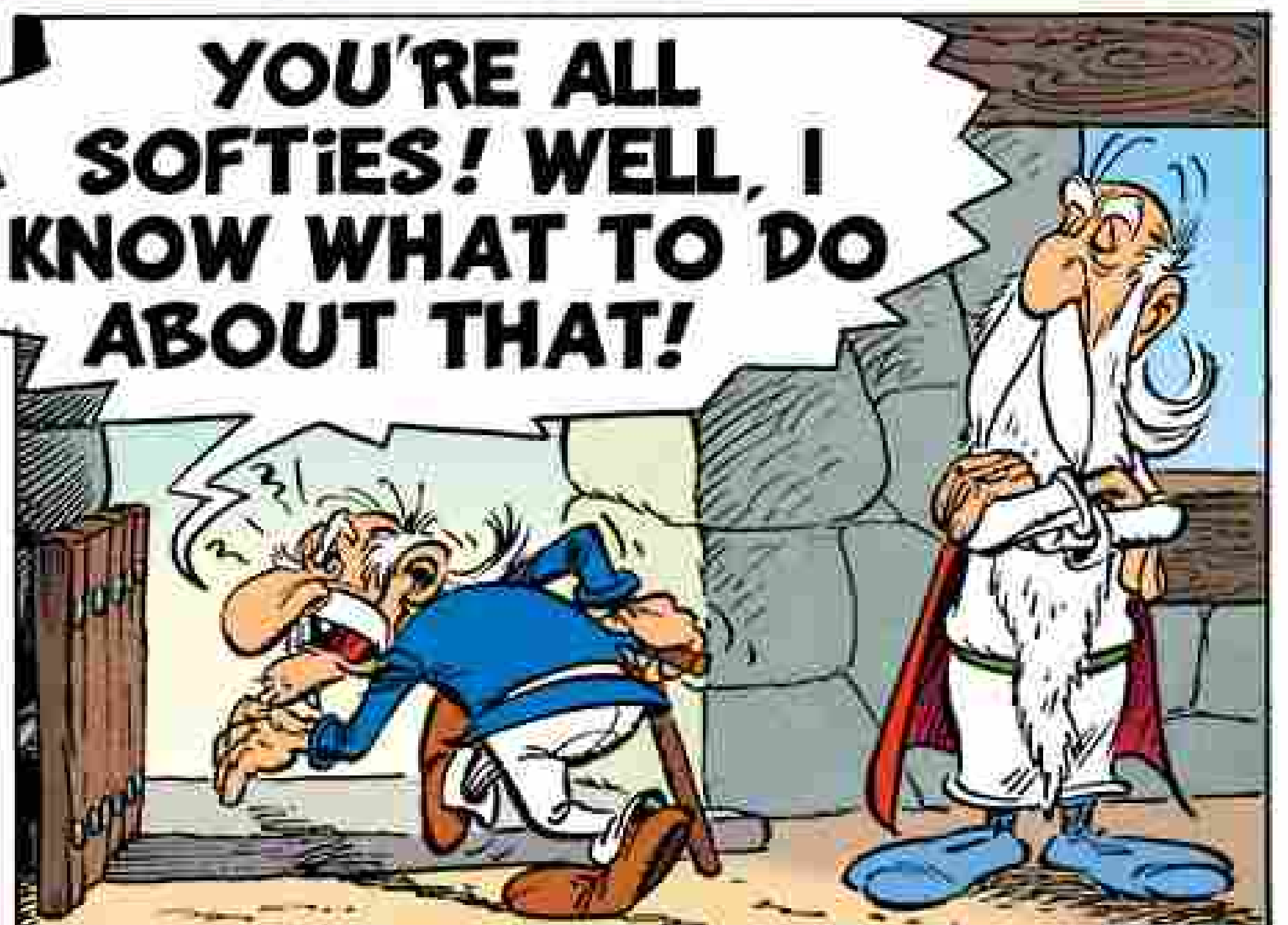
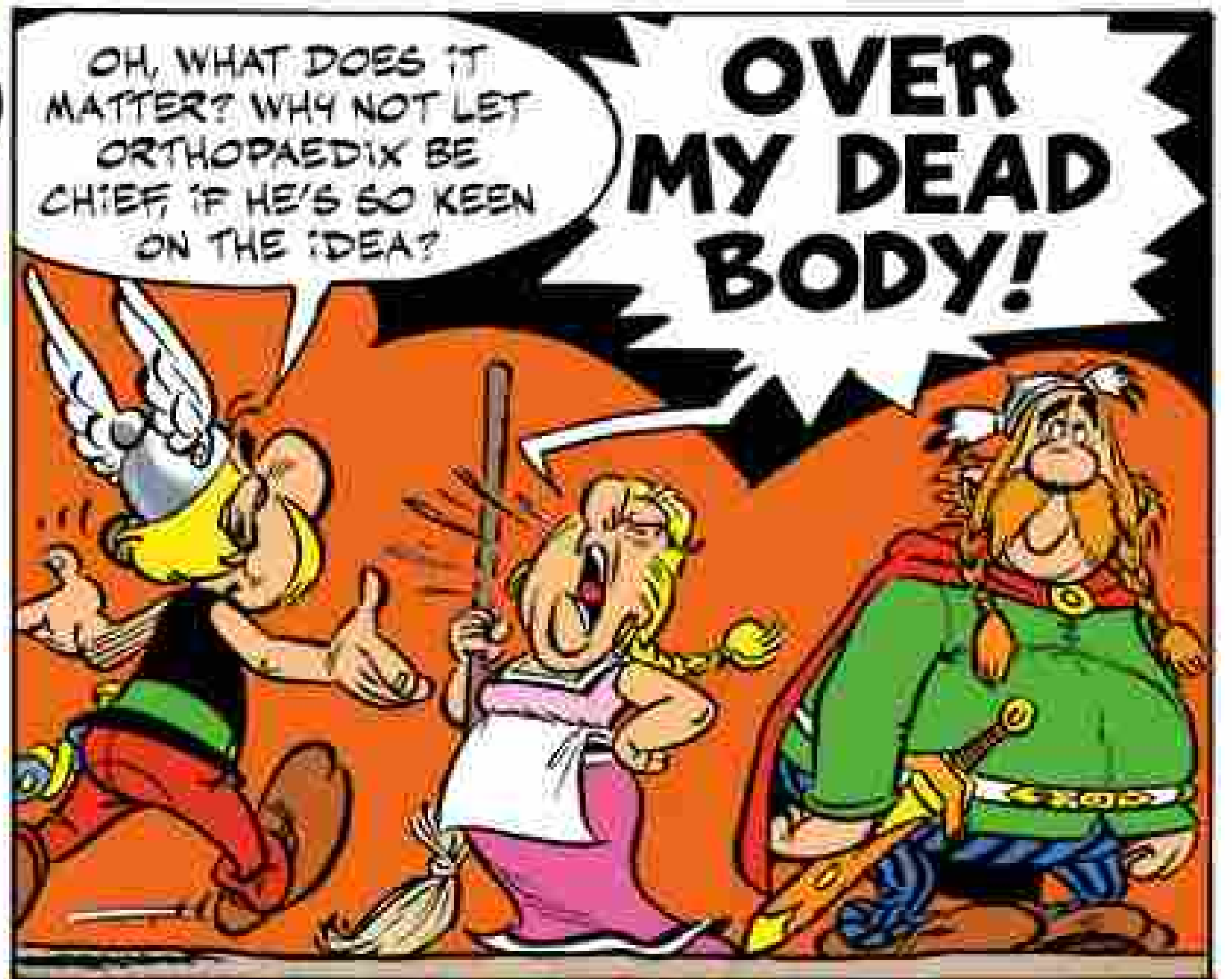


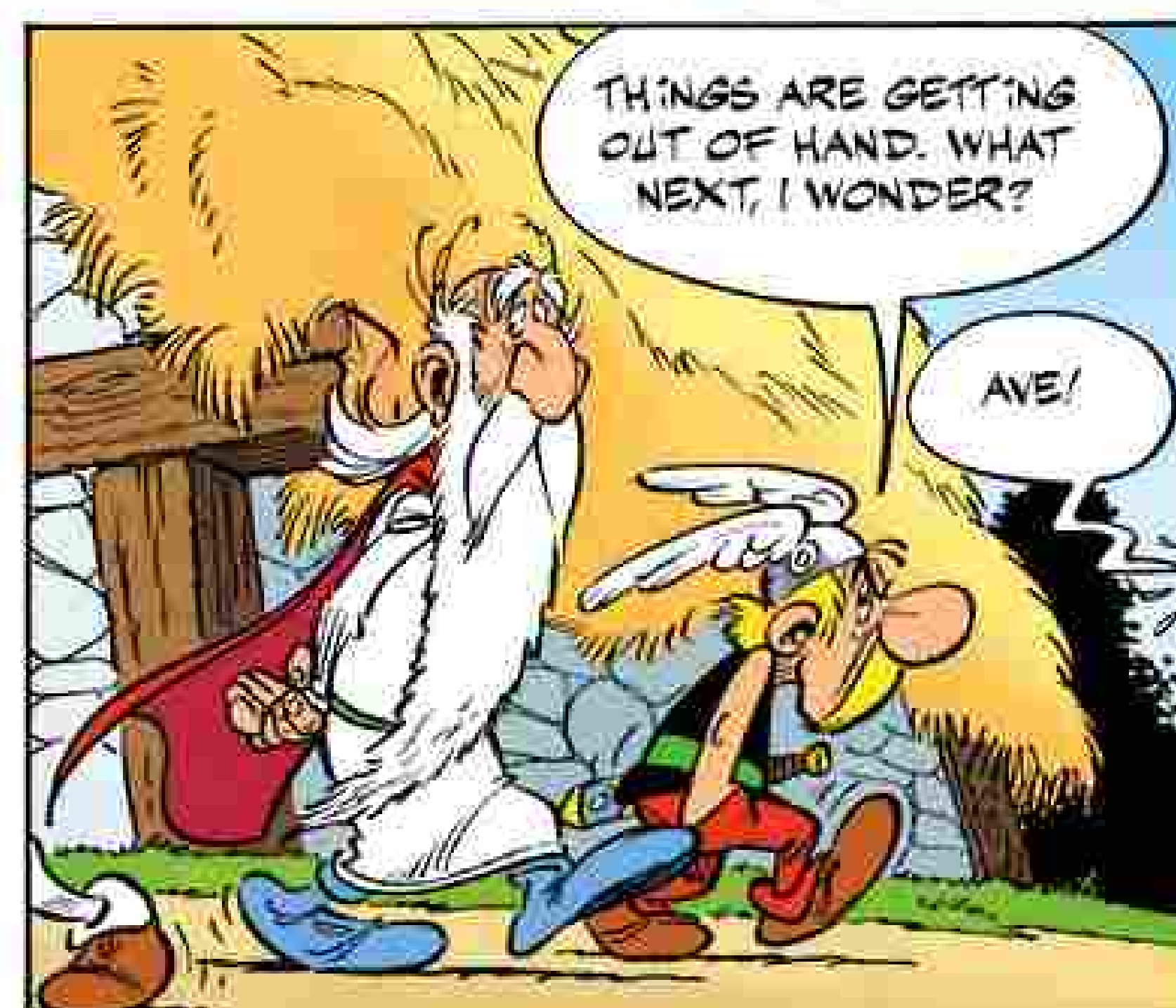
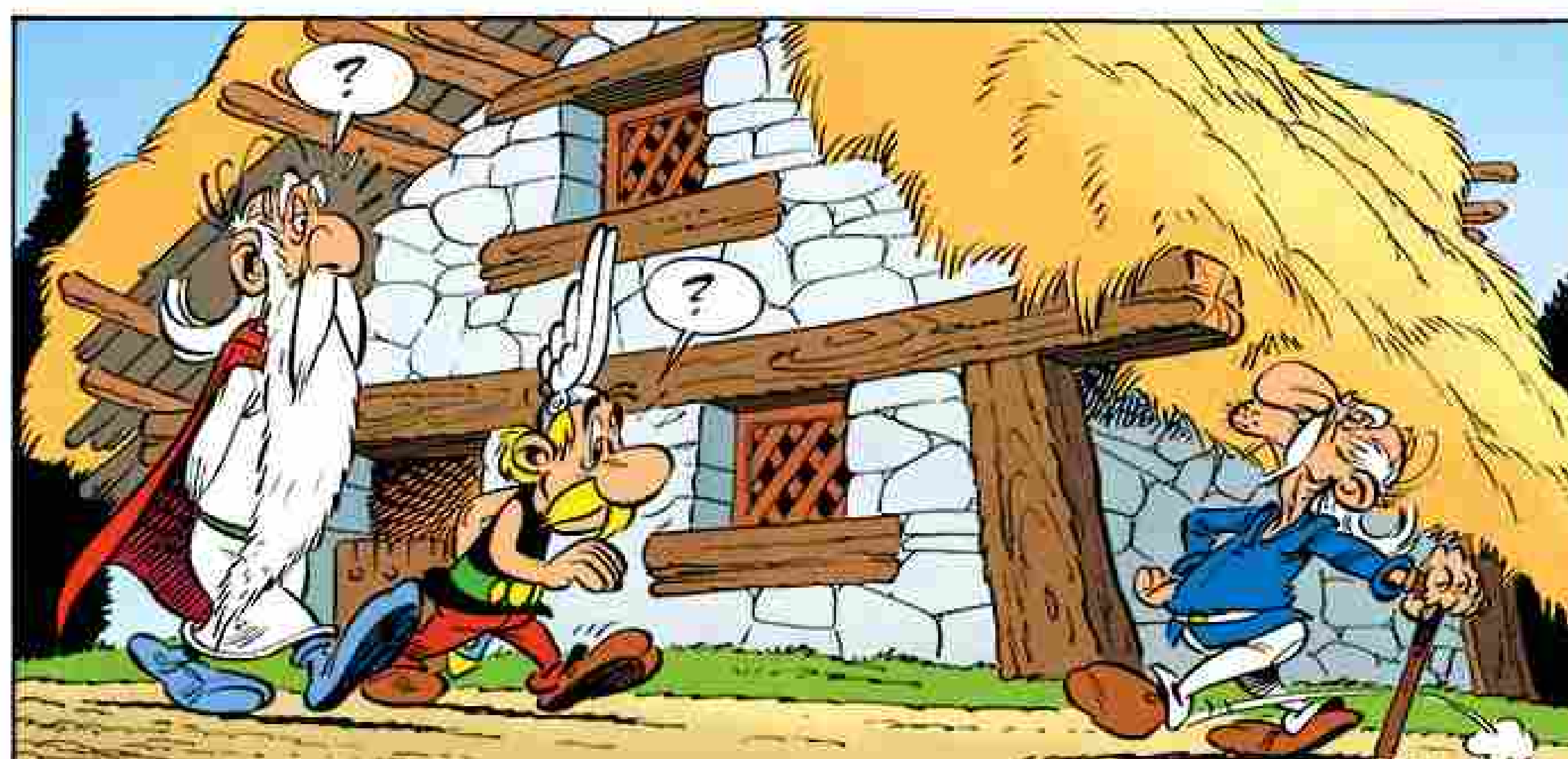
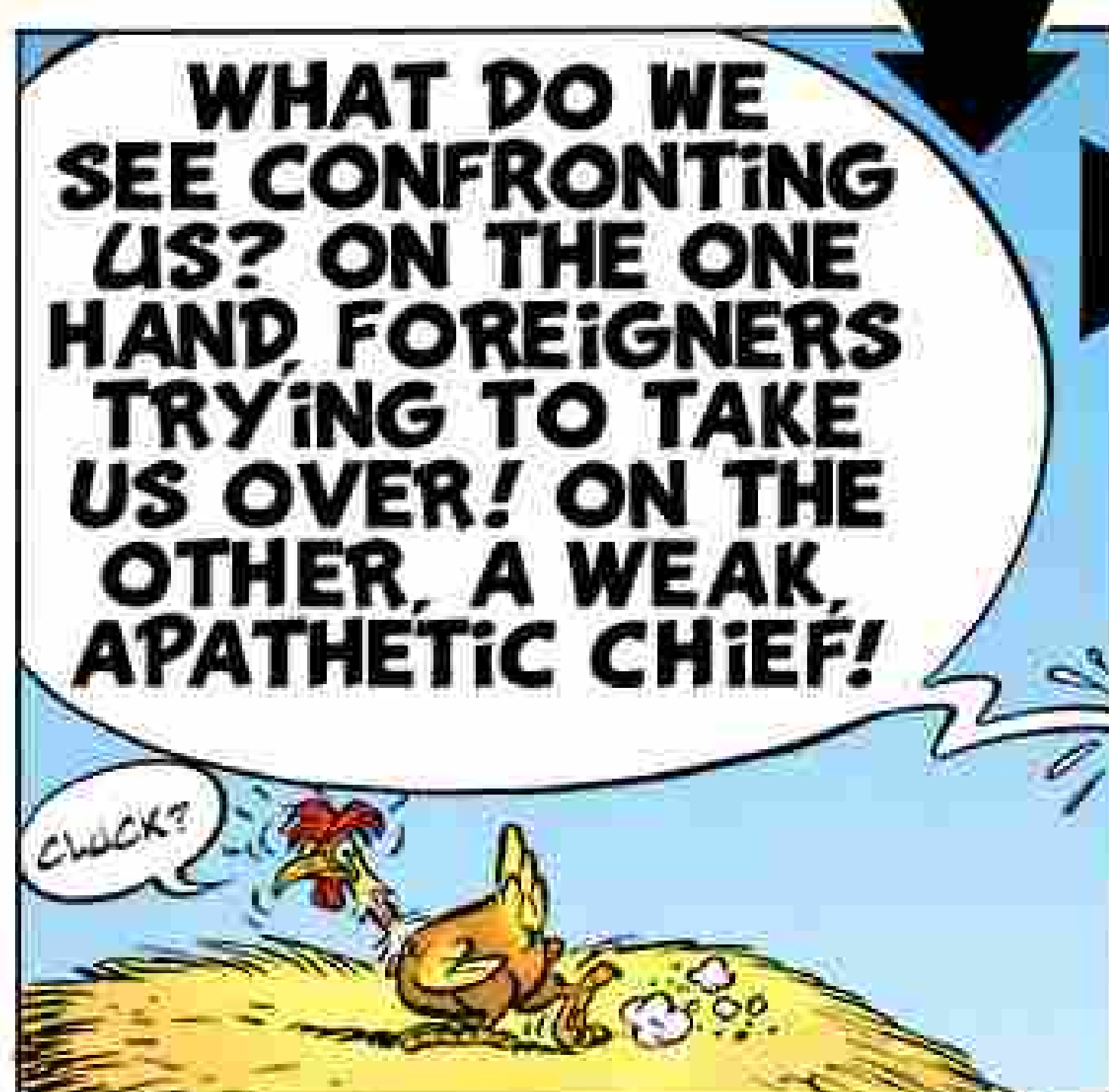


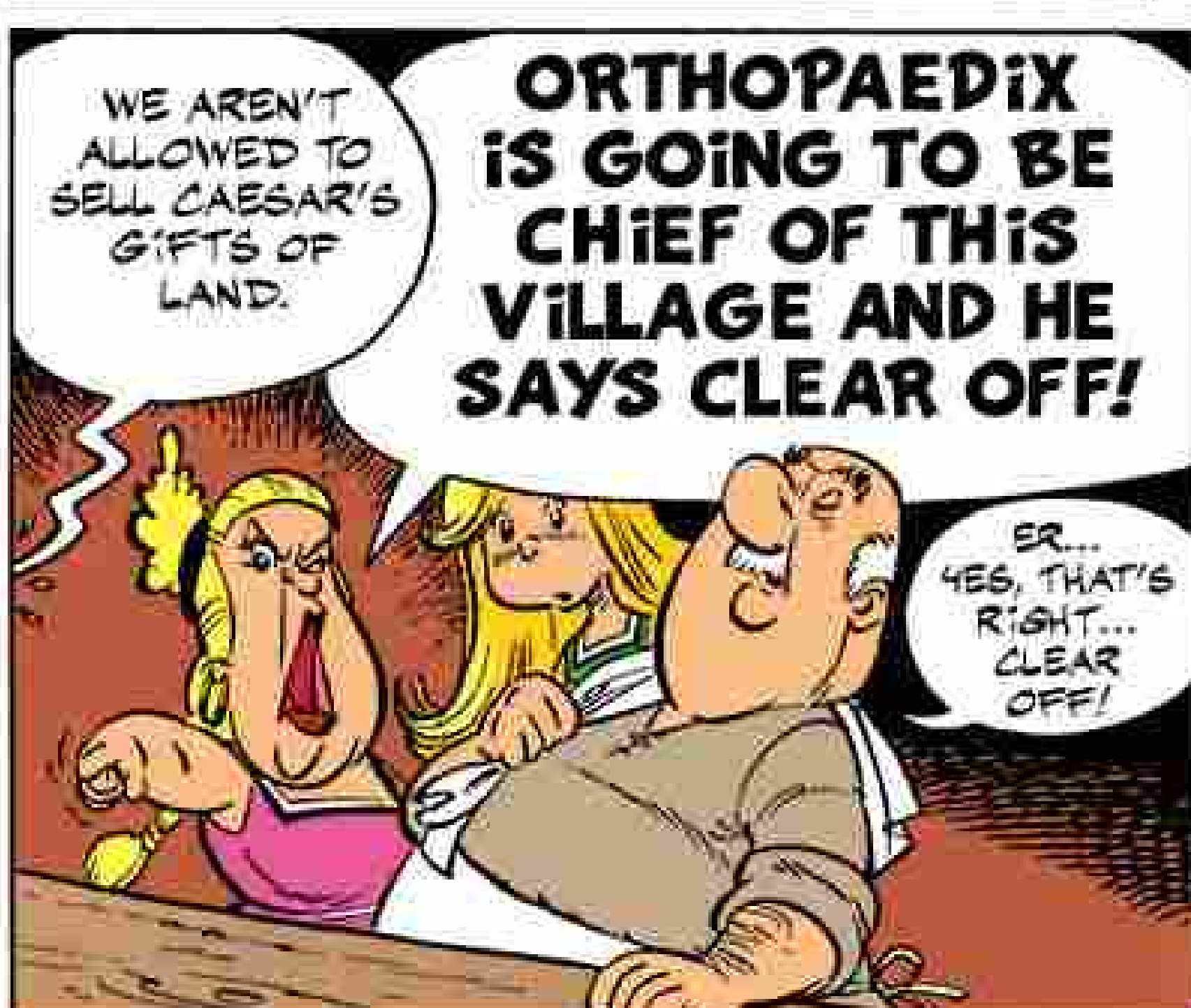
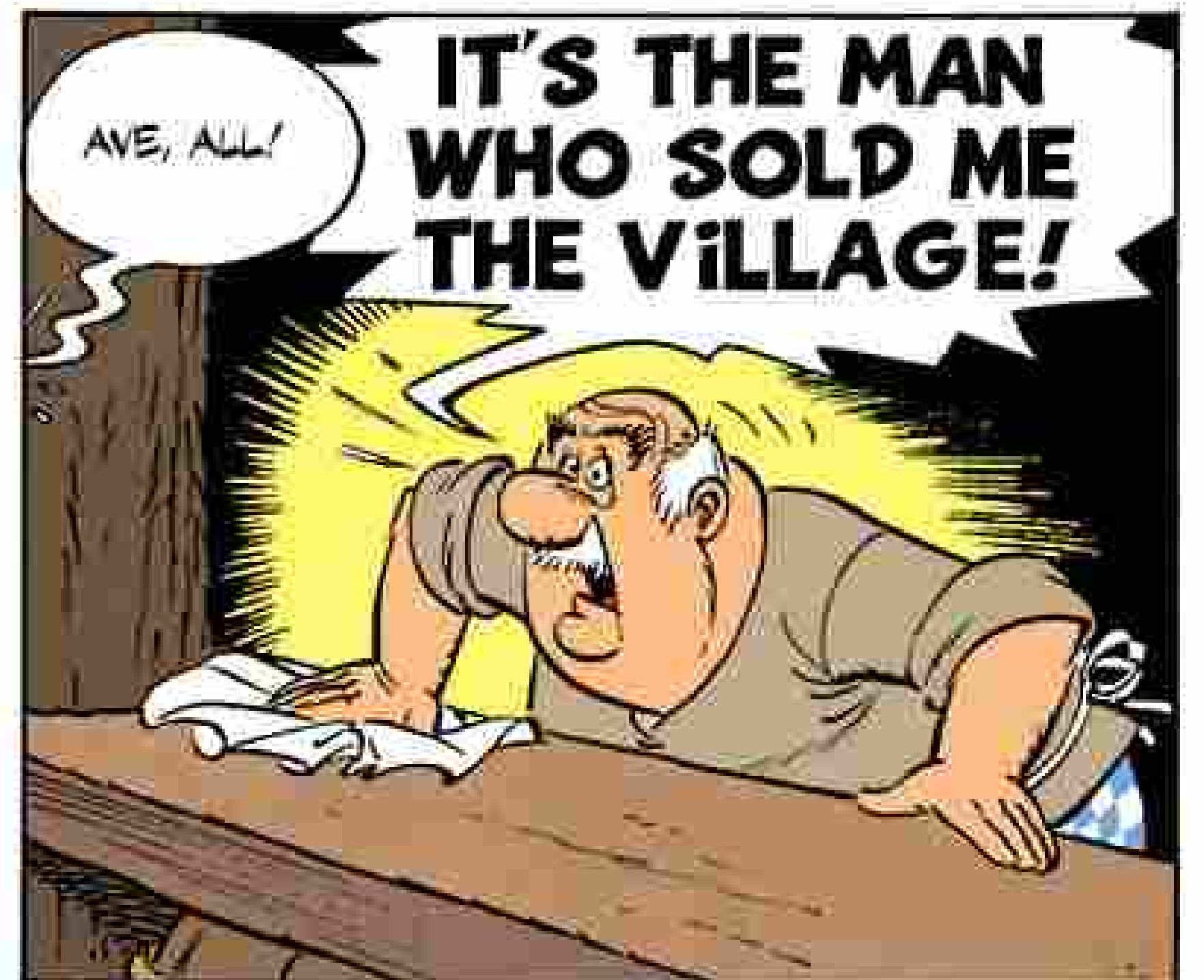
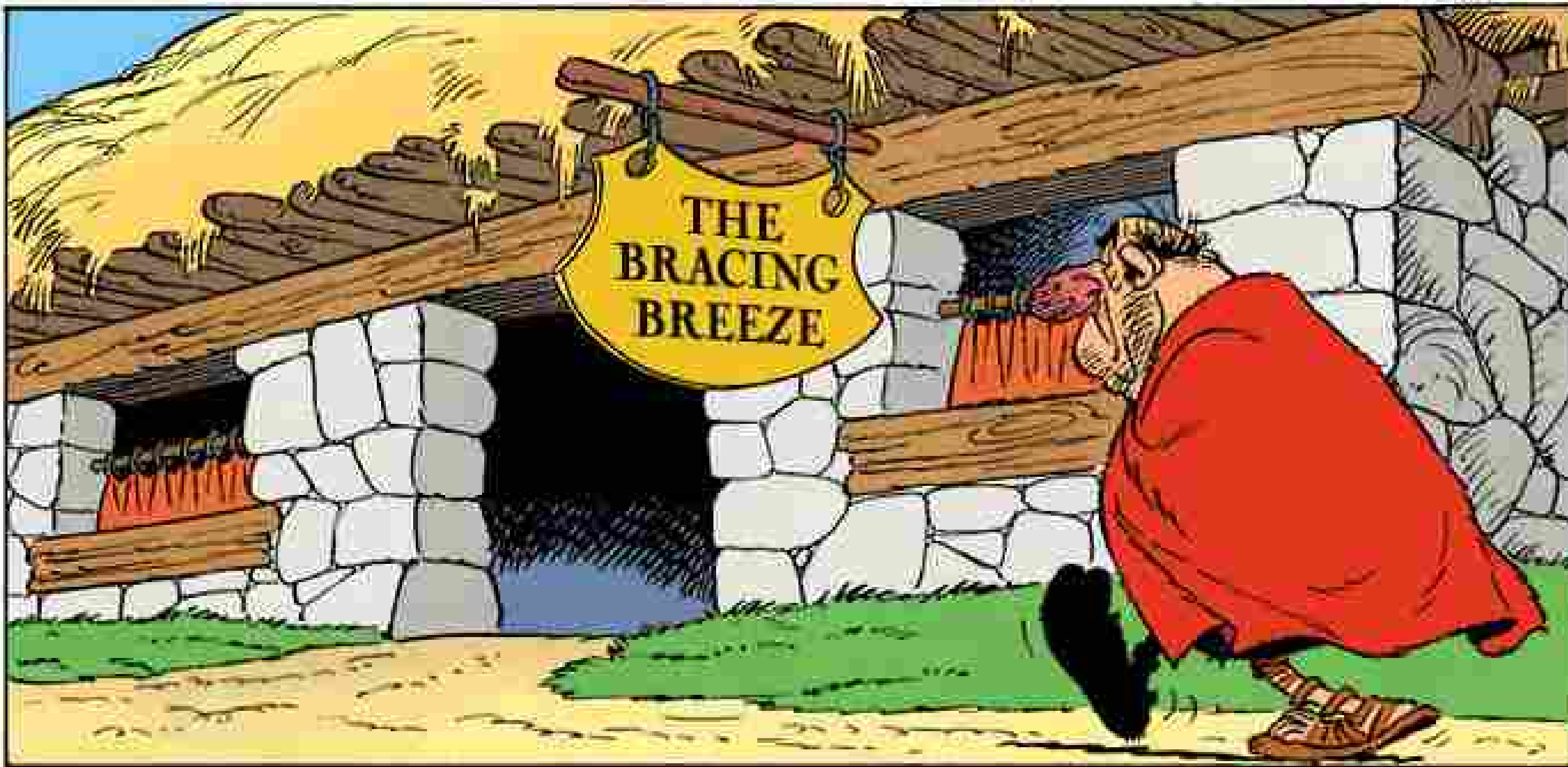






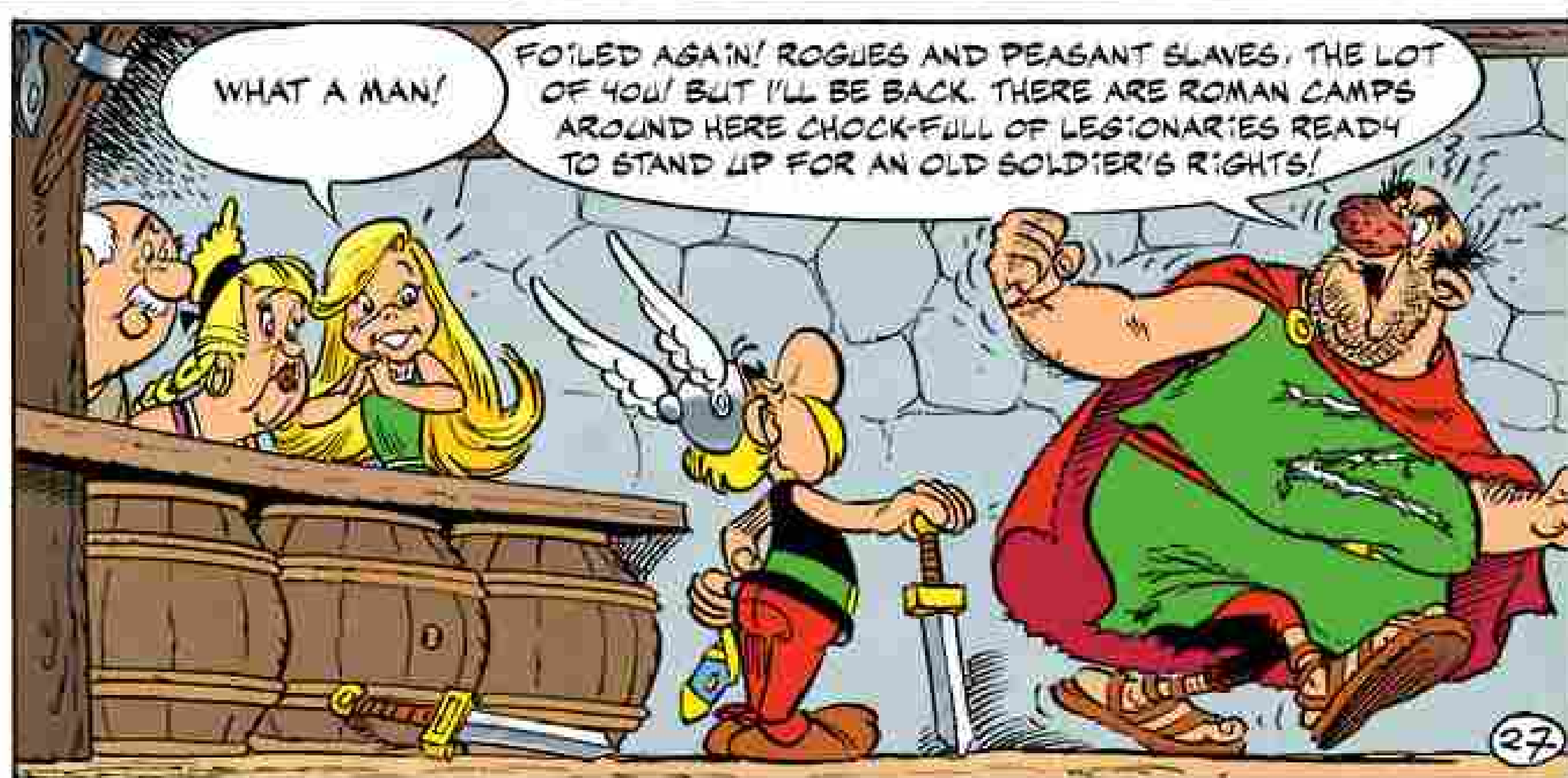


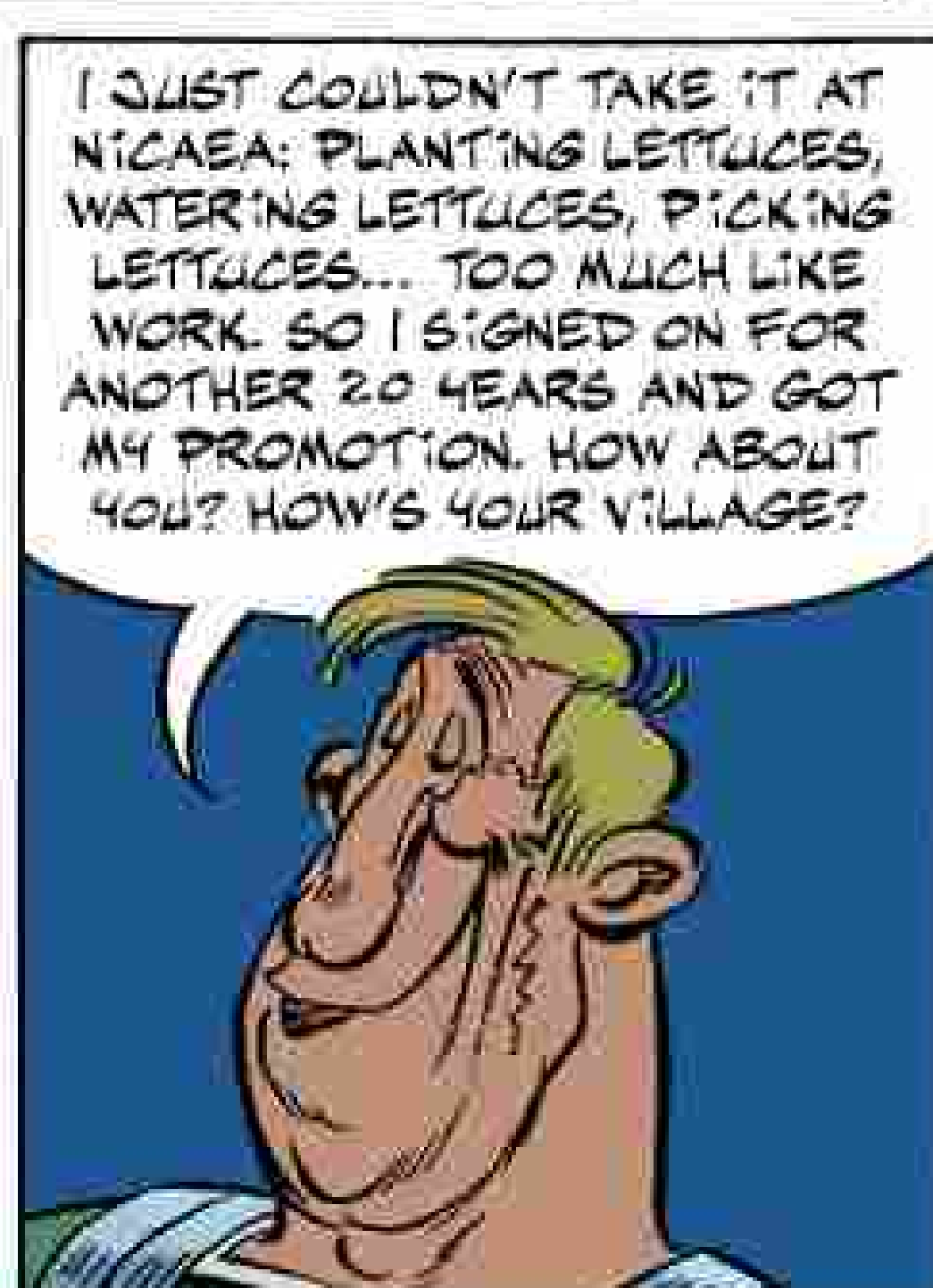
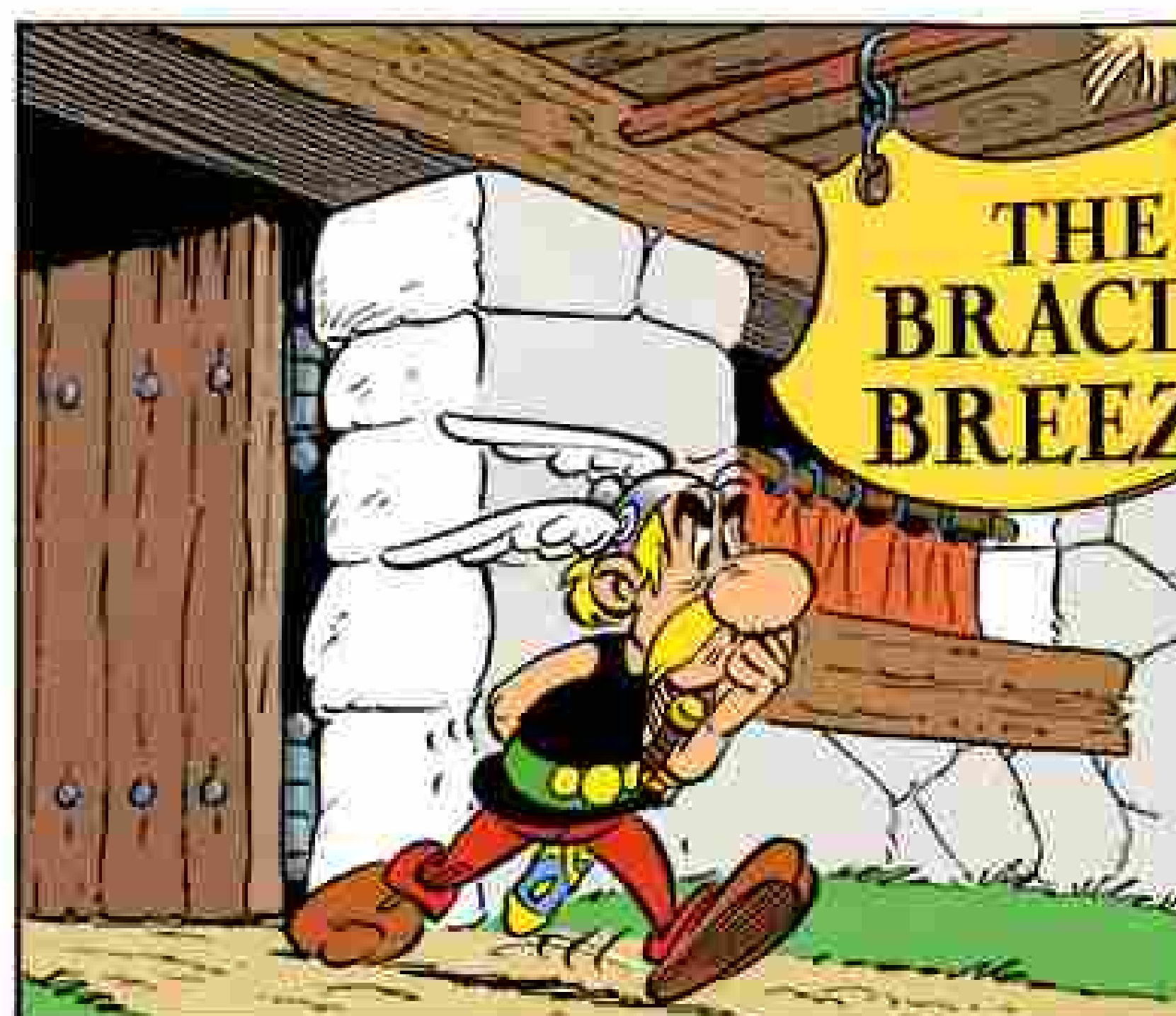


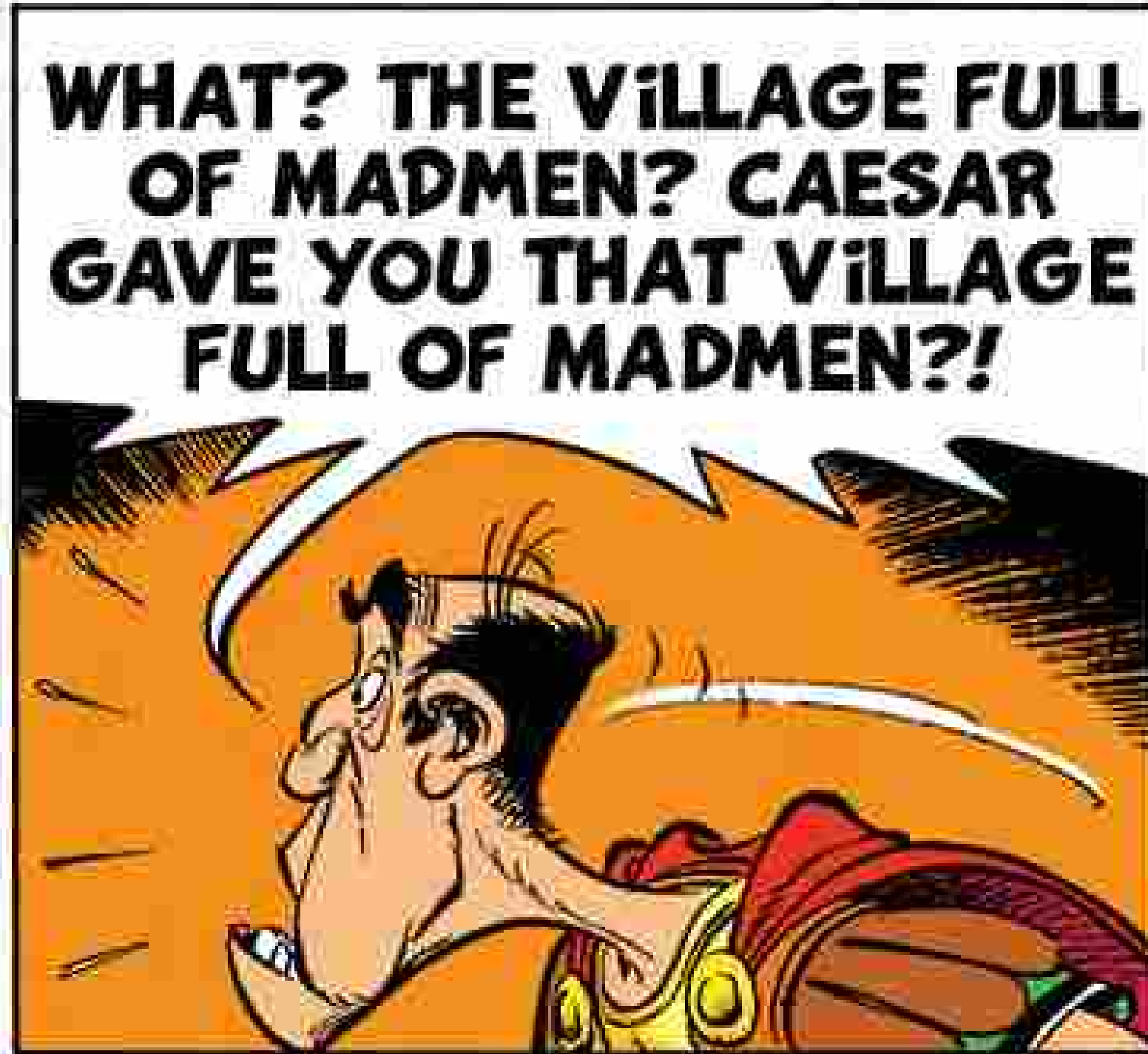
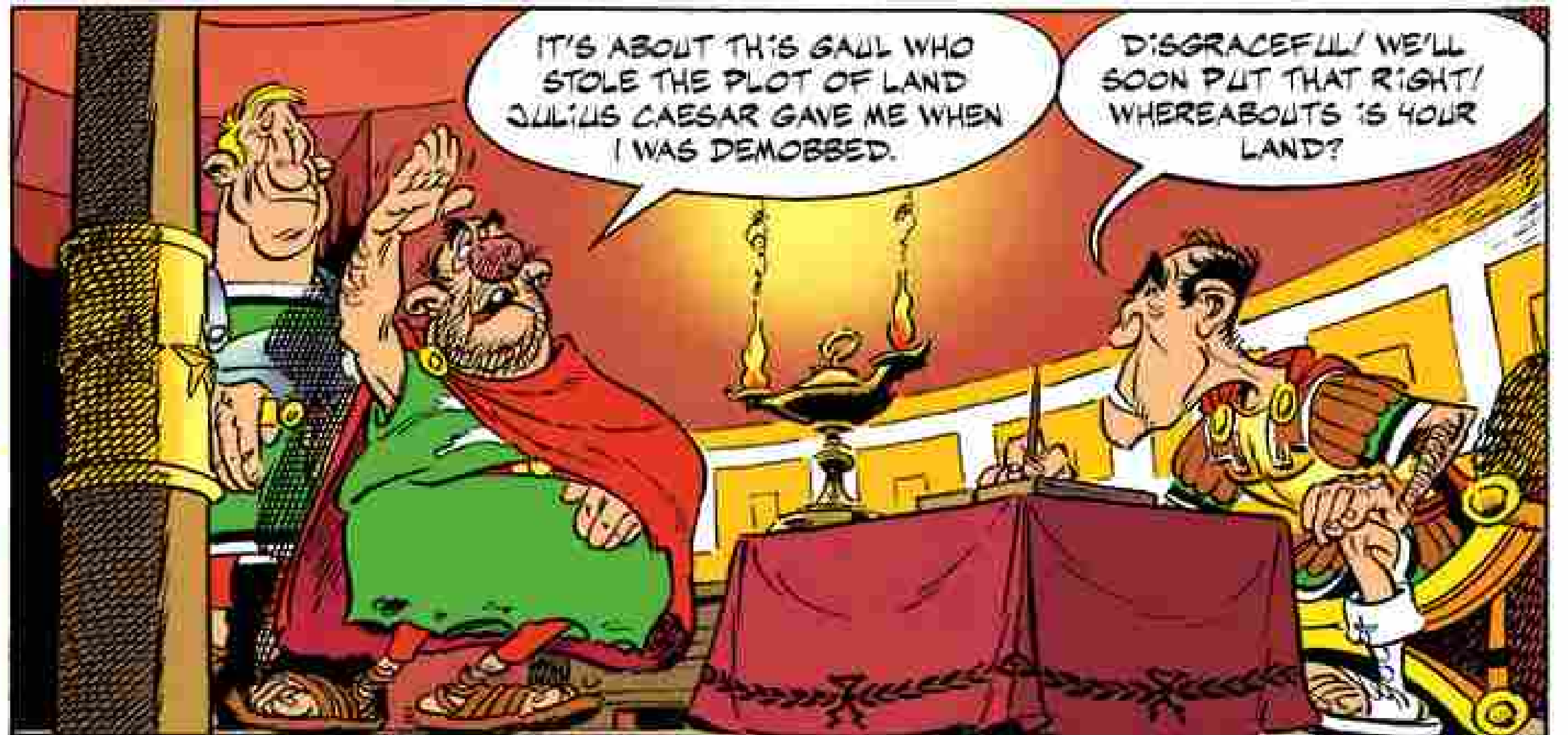


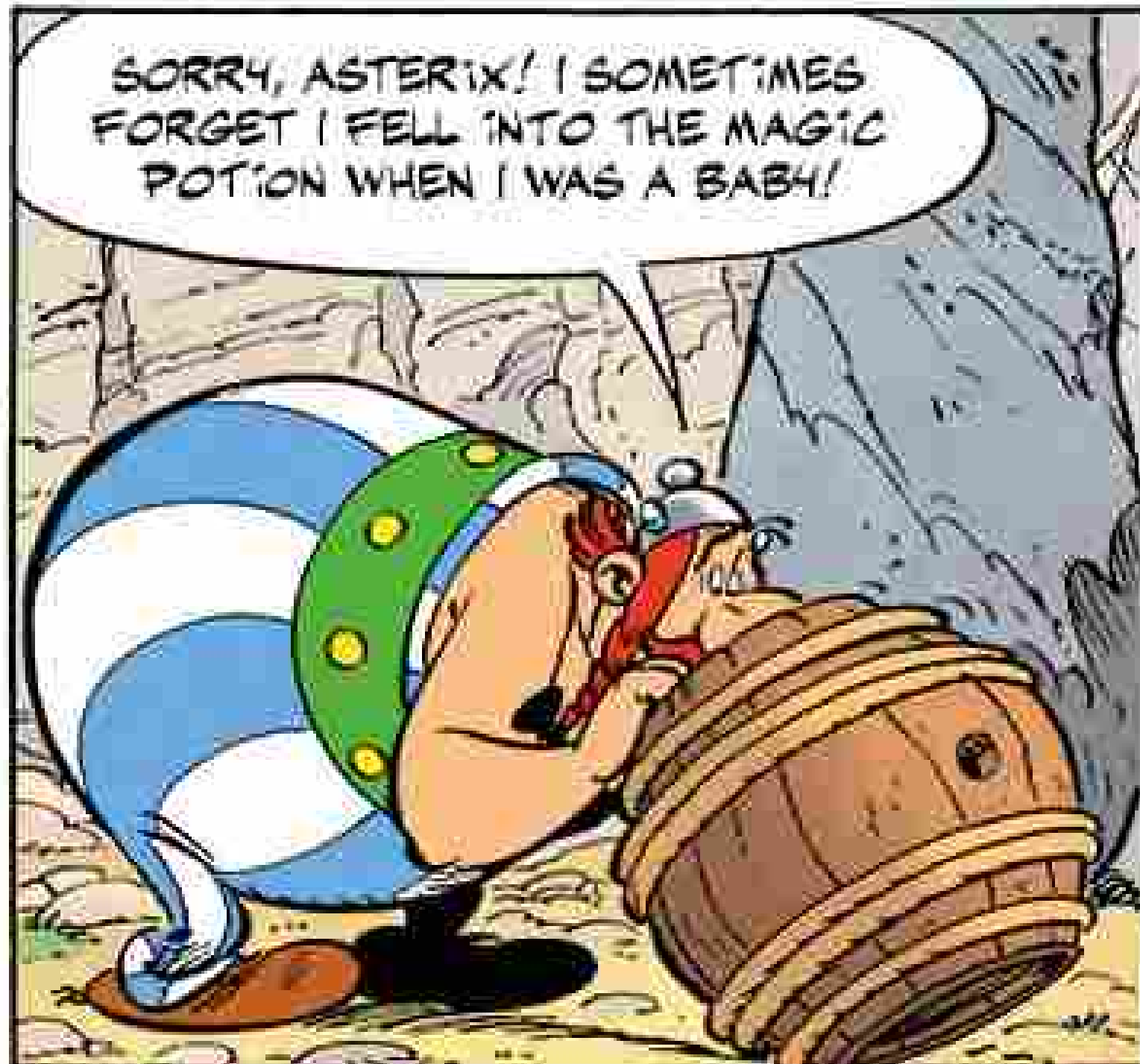


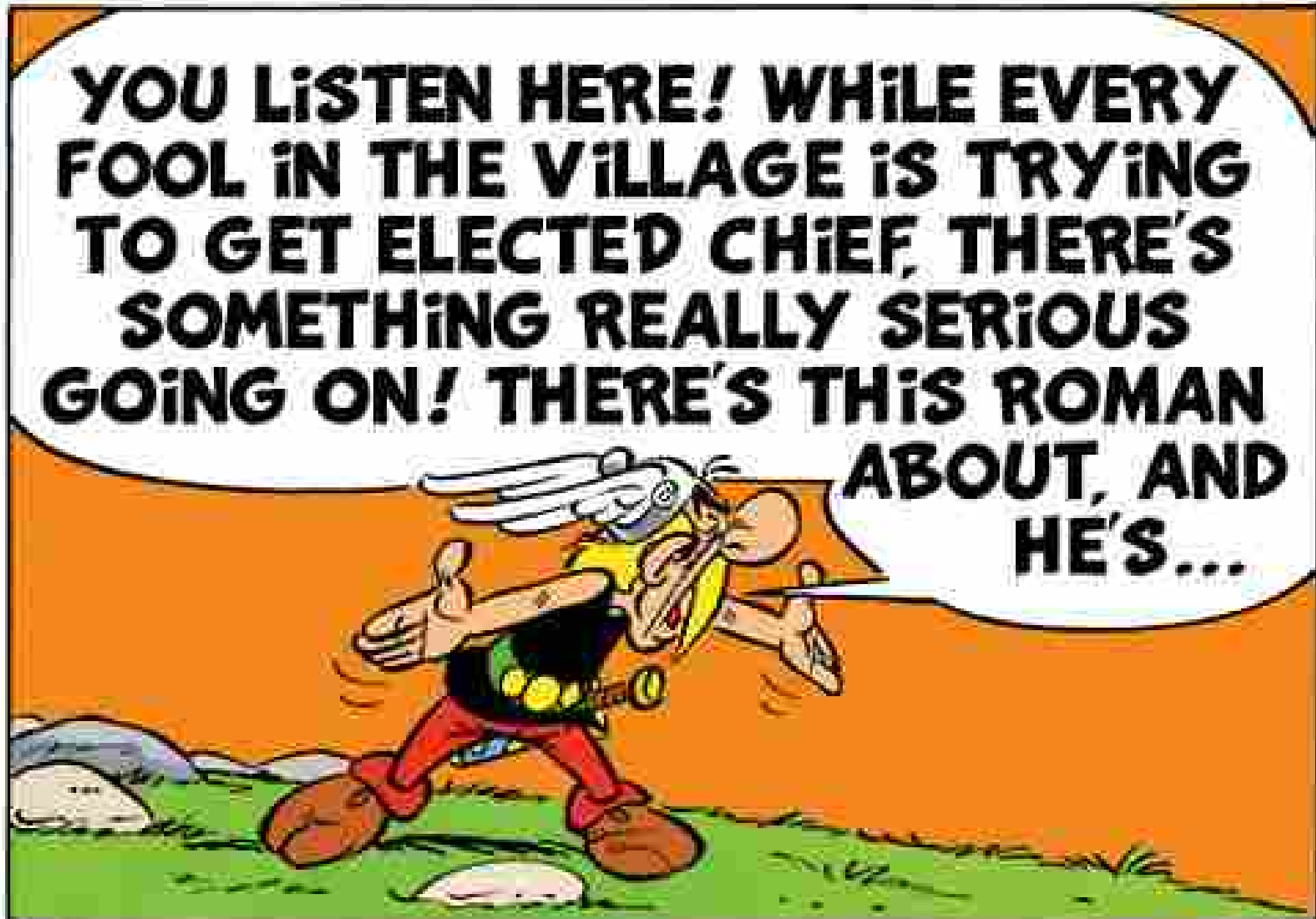
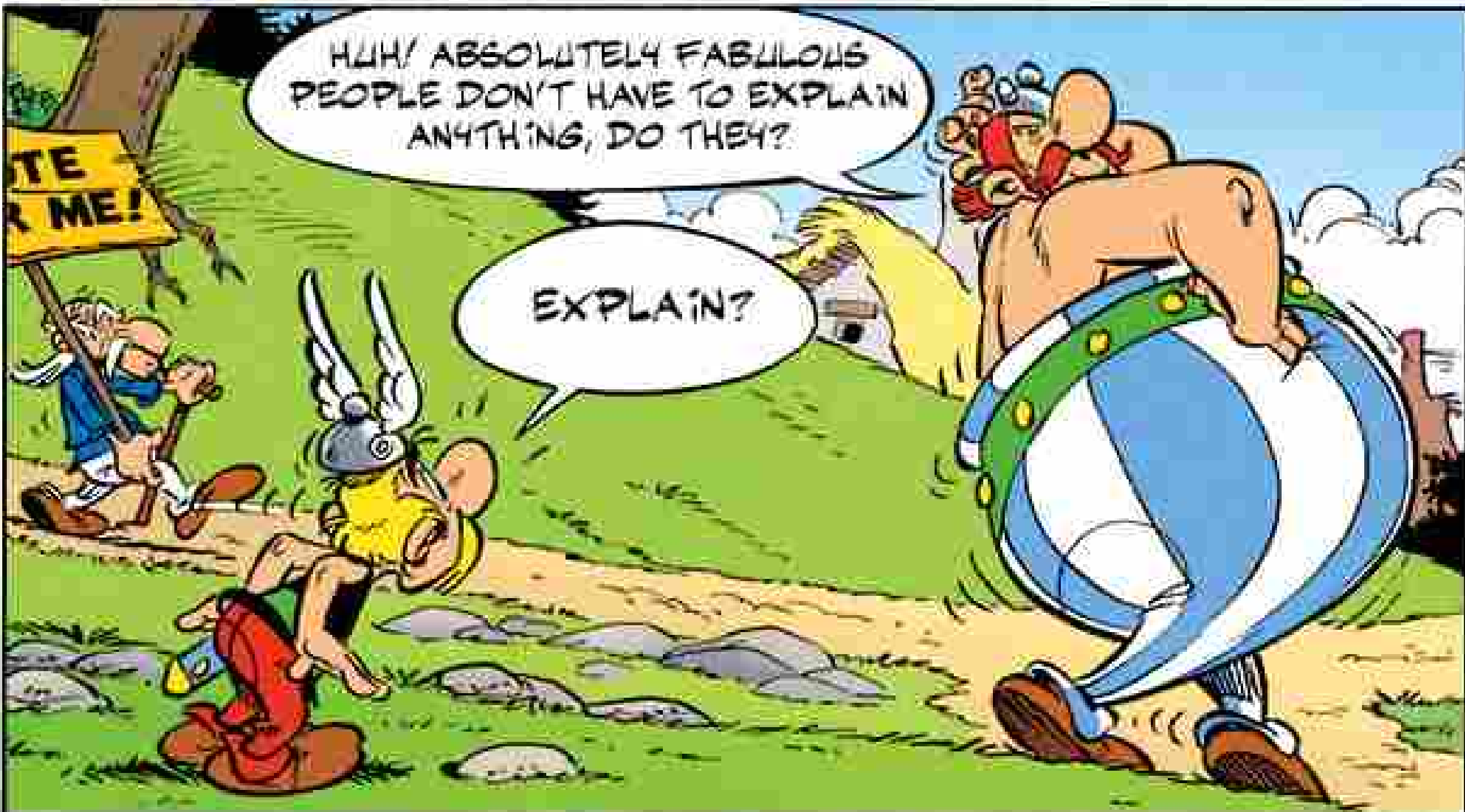
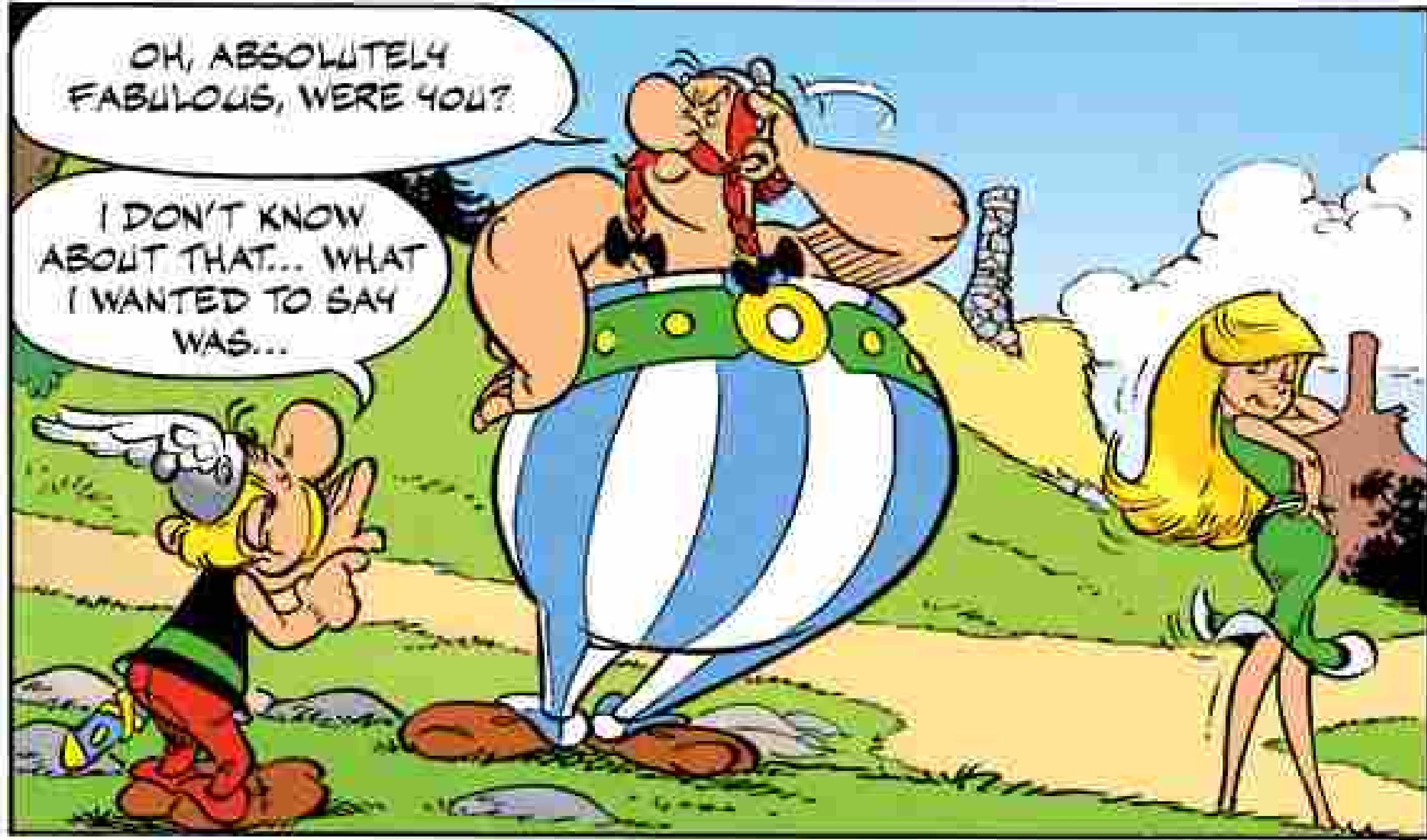
* FLAMEN: HIGH-RANKING ROMAN PRIEST

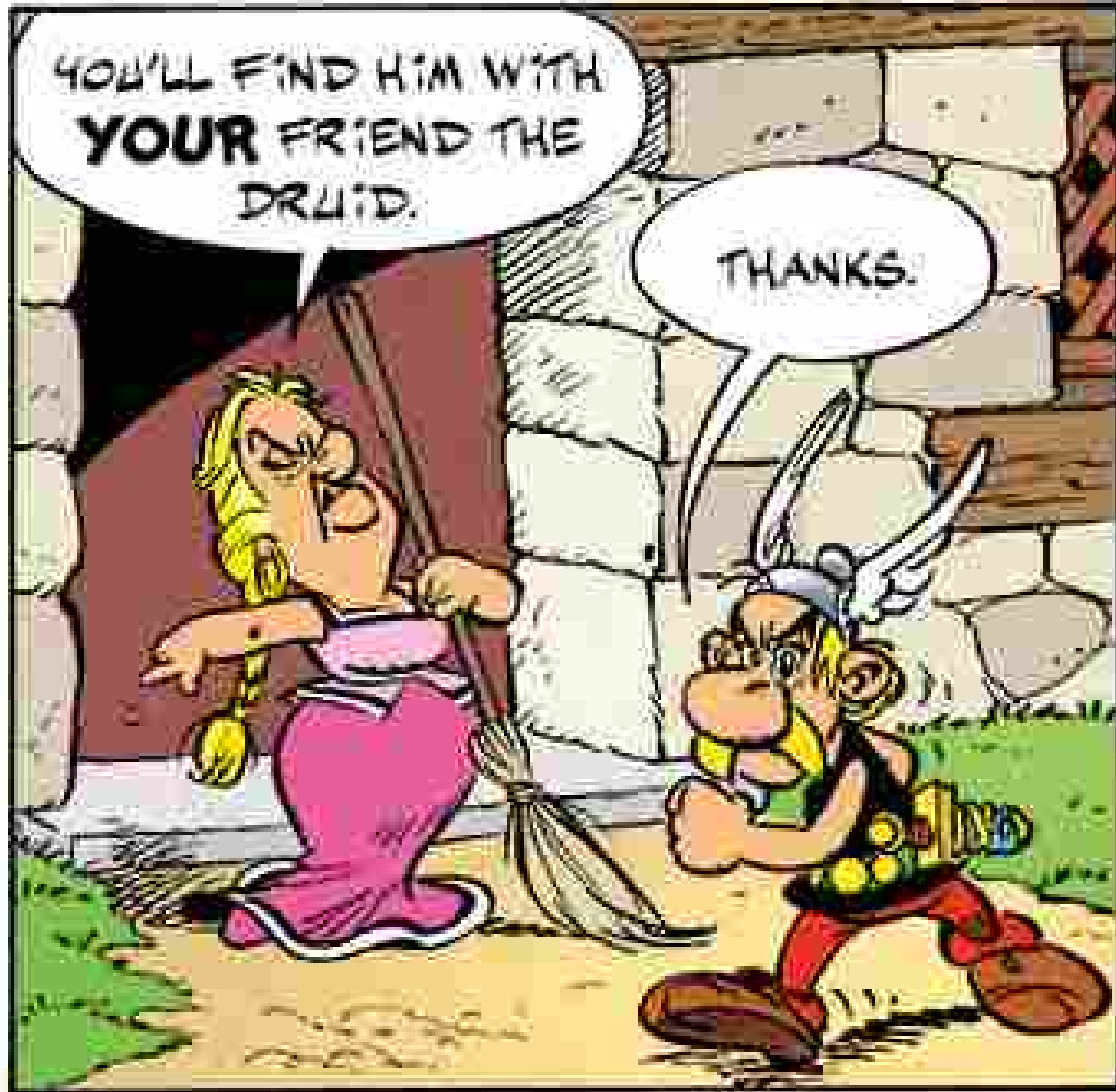
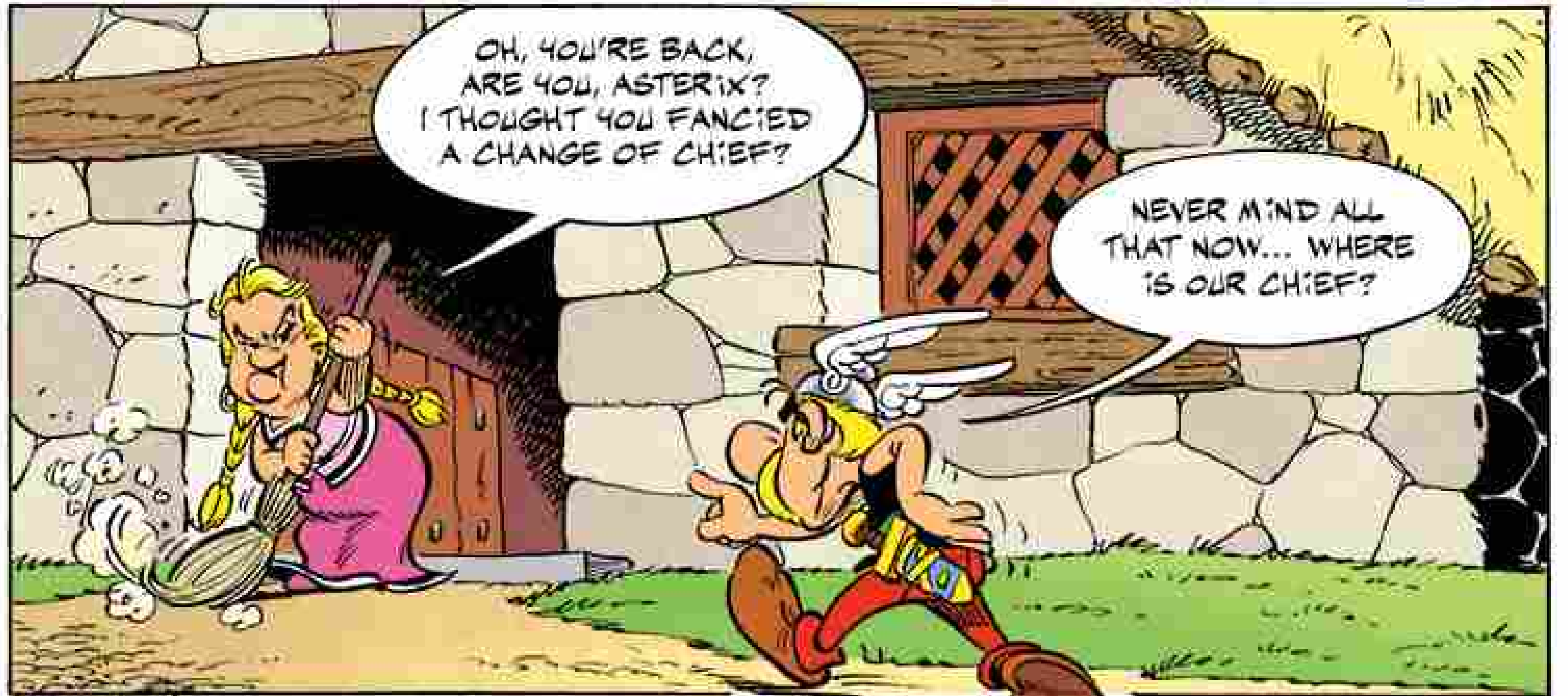
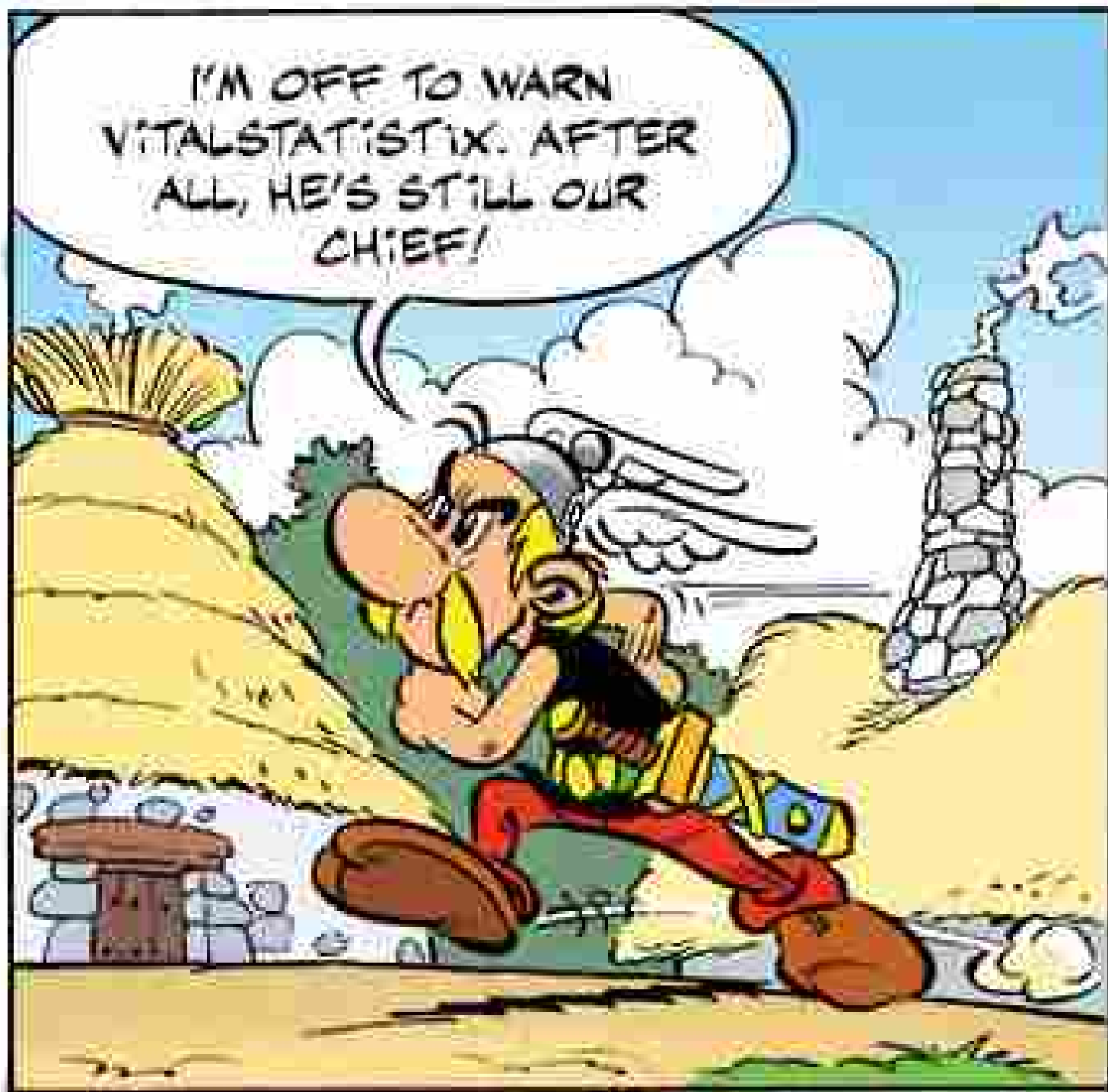


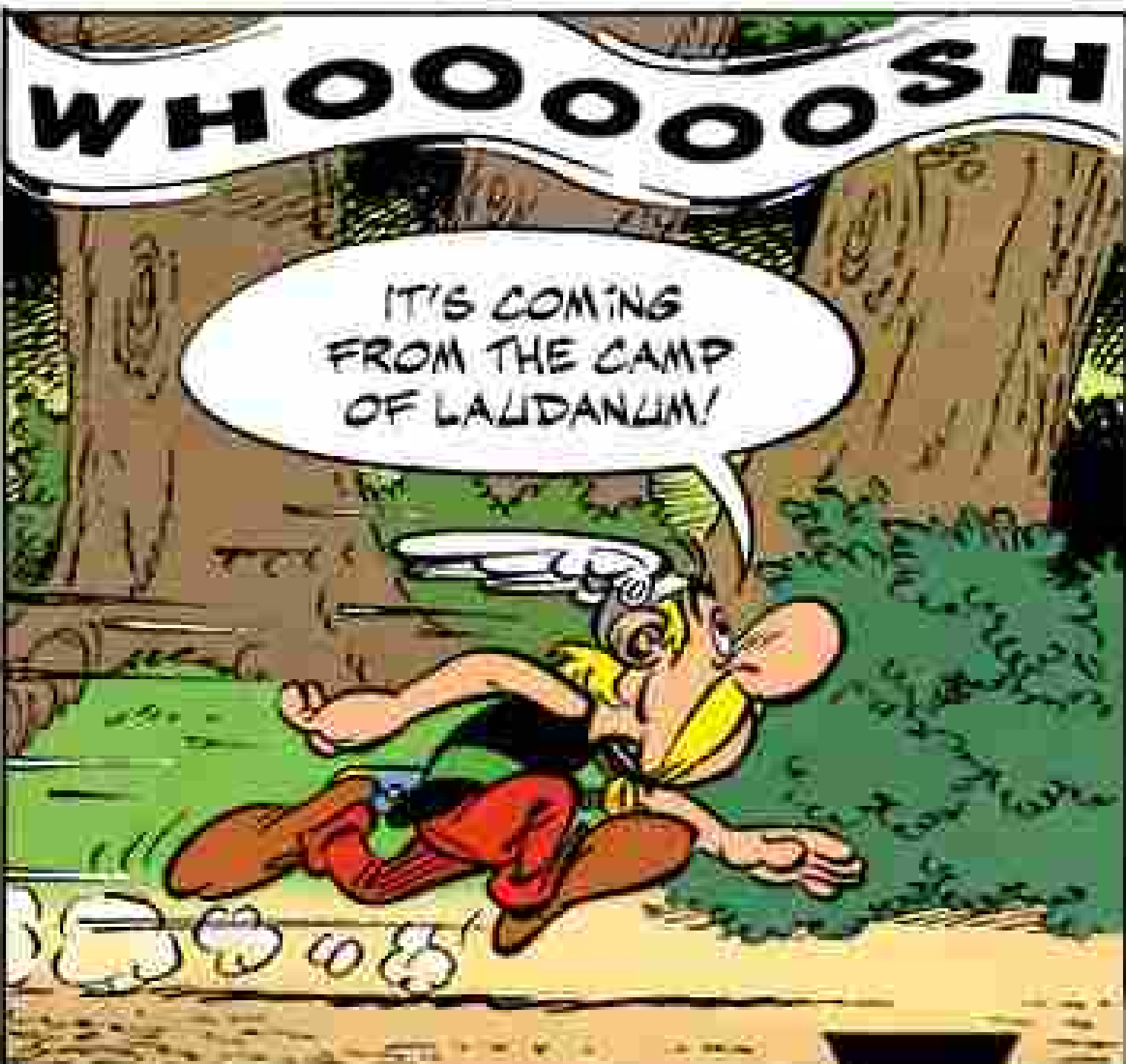
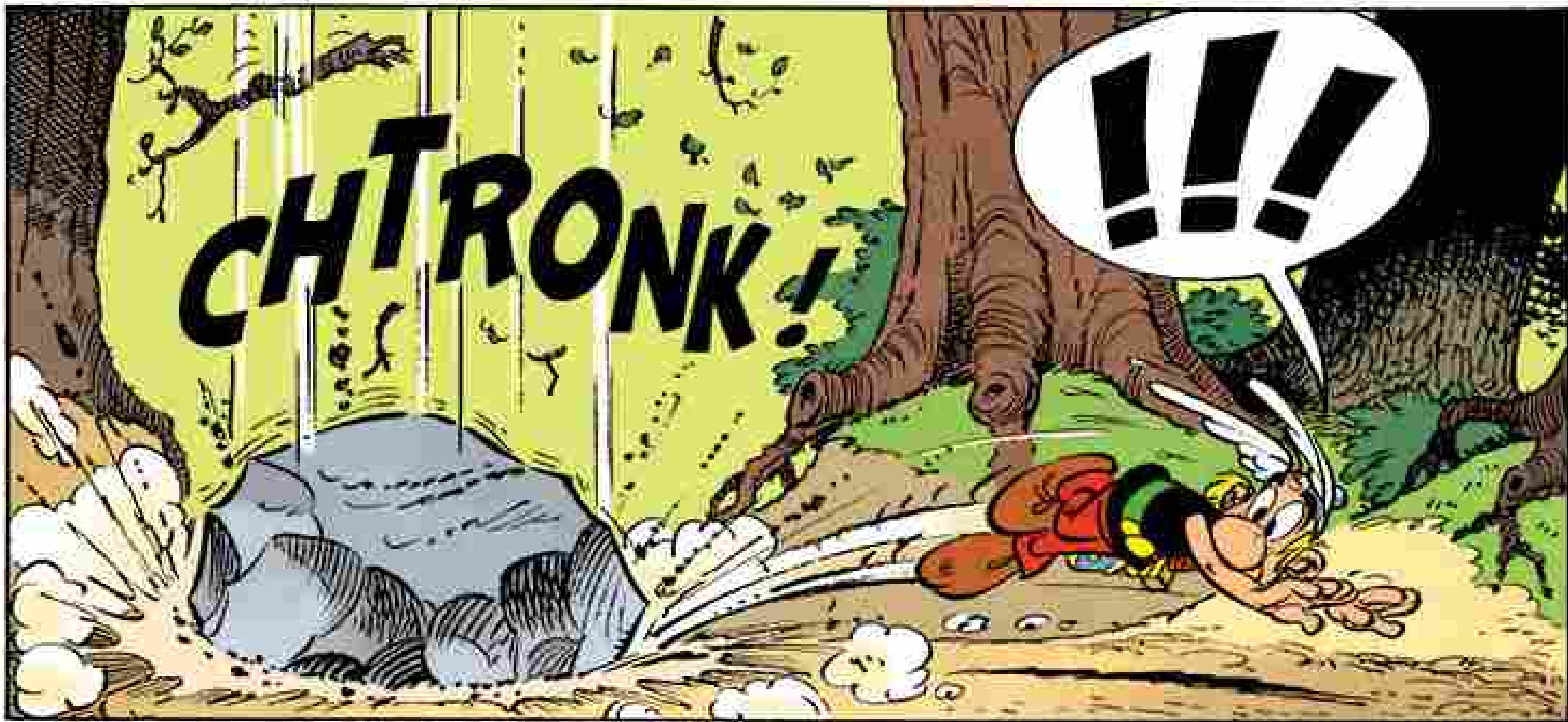
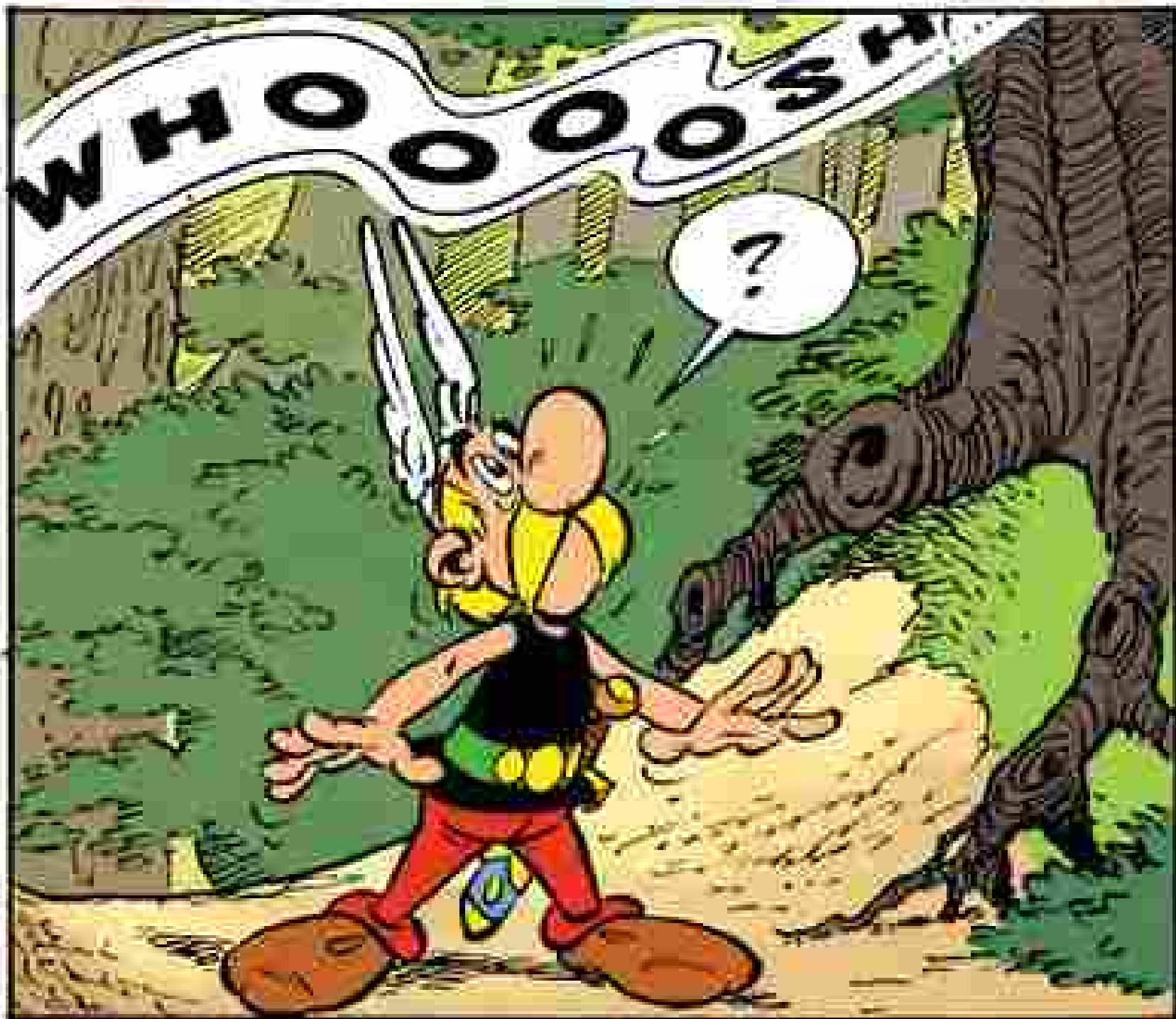
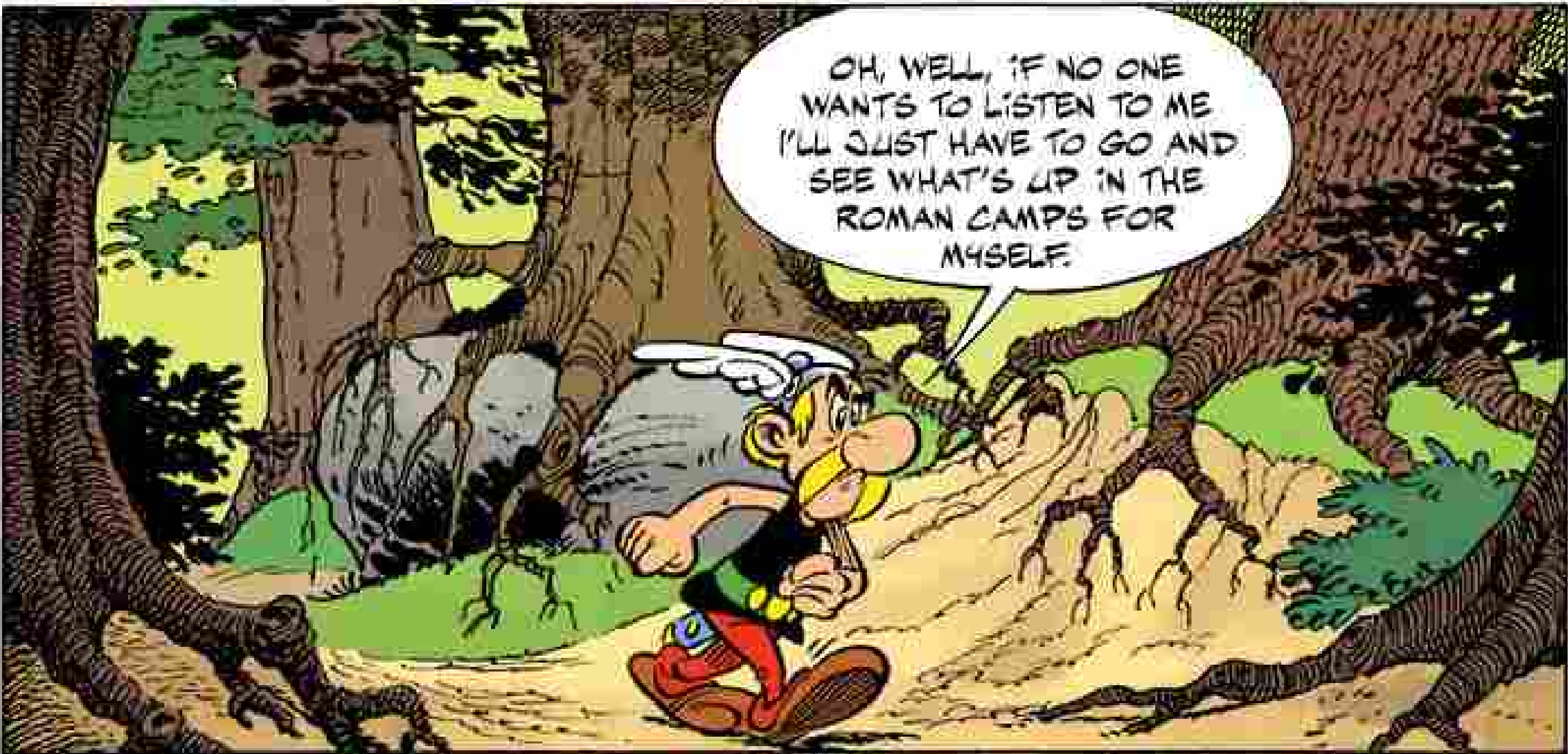


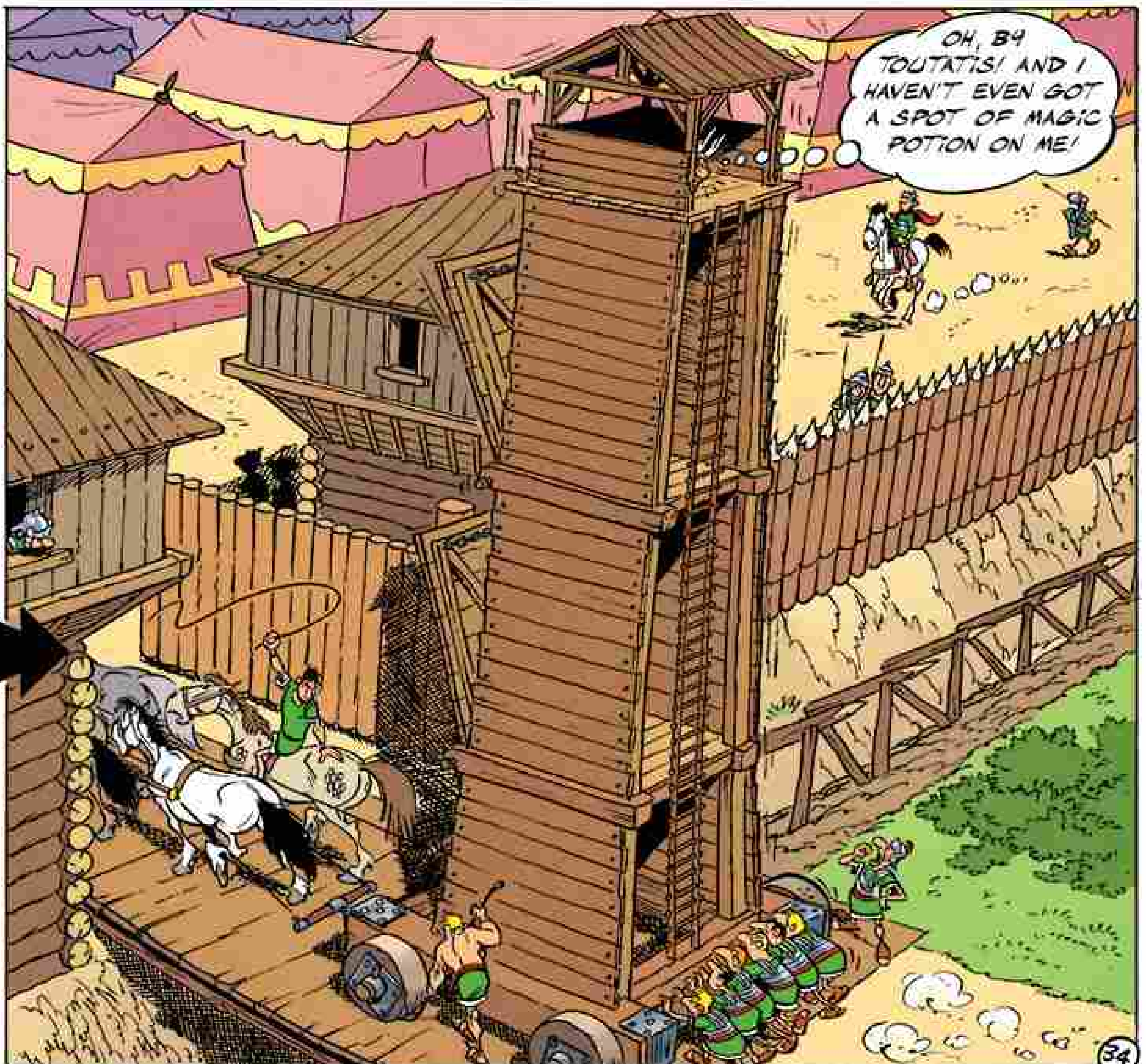
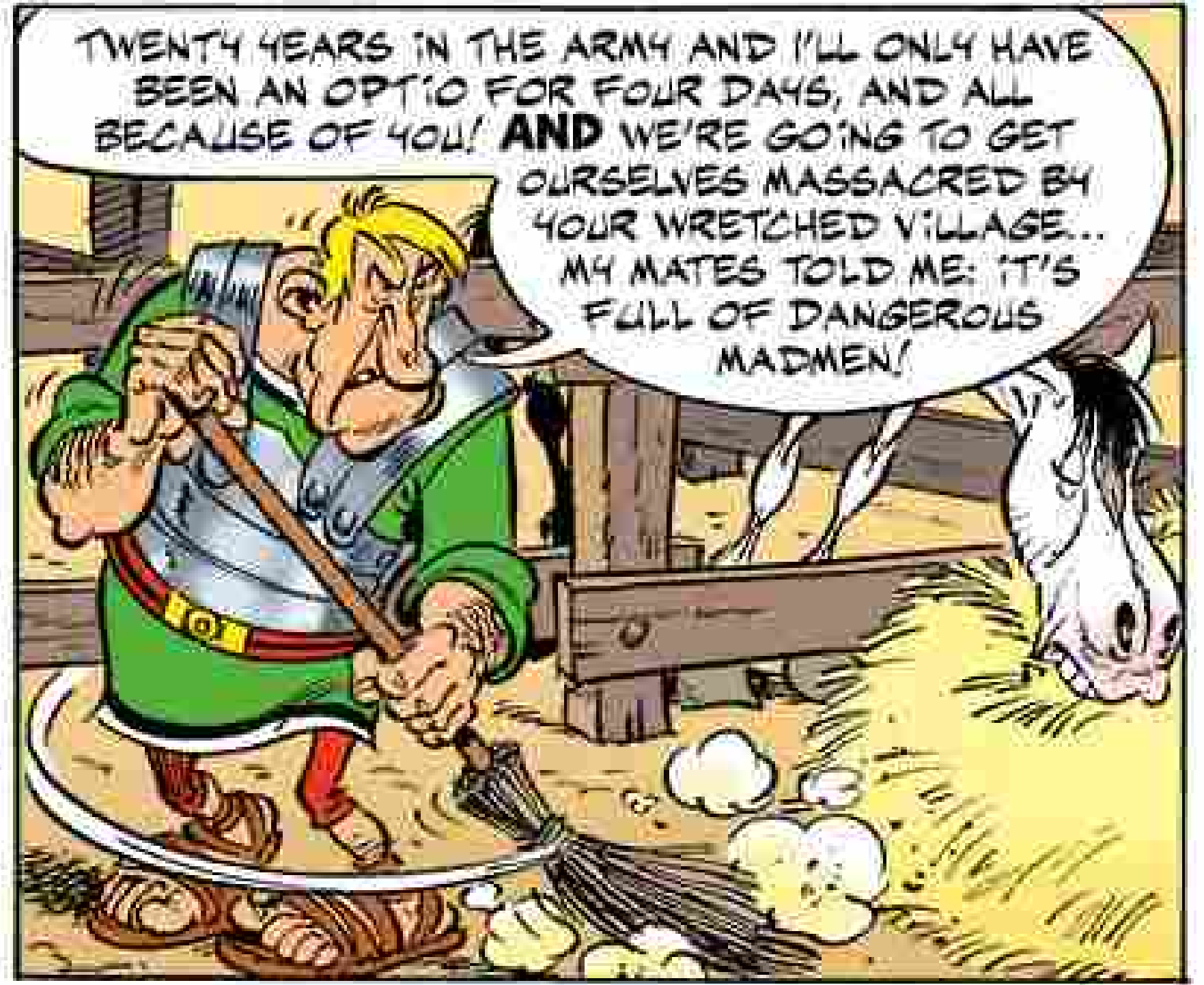
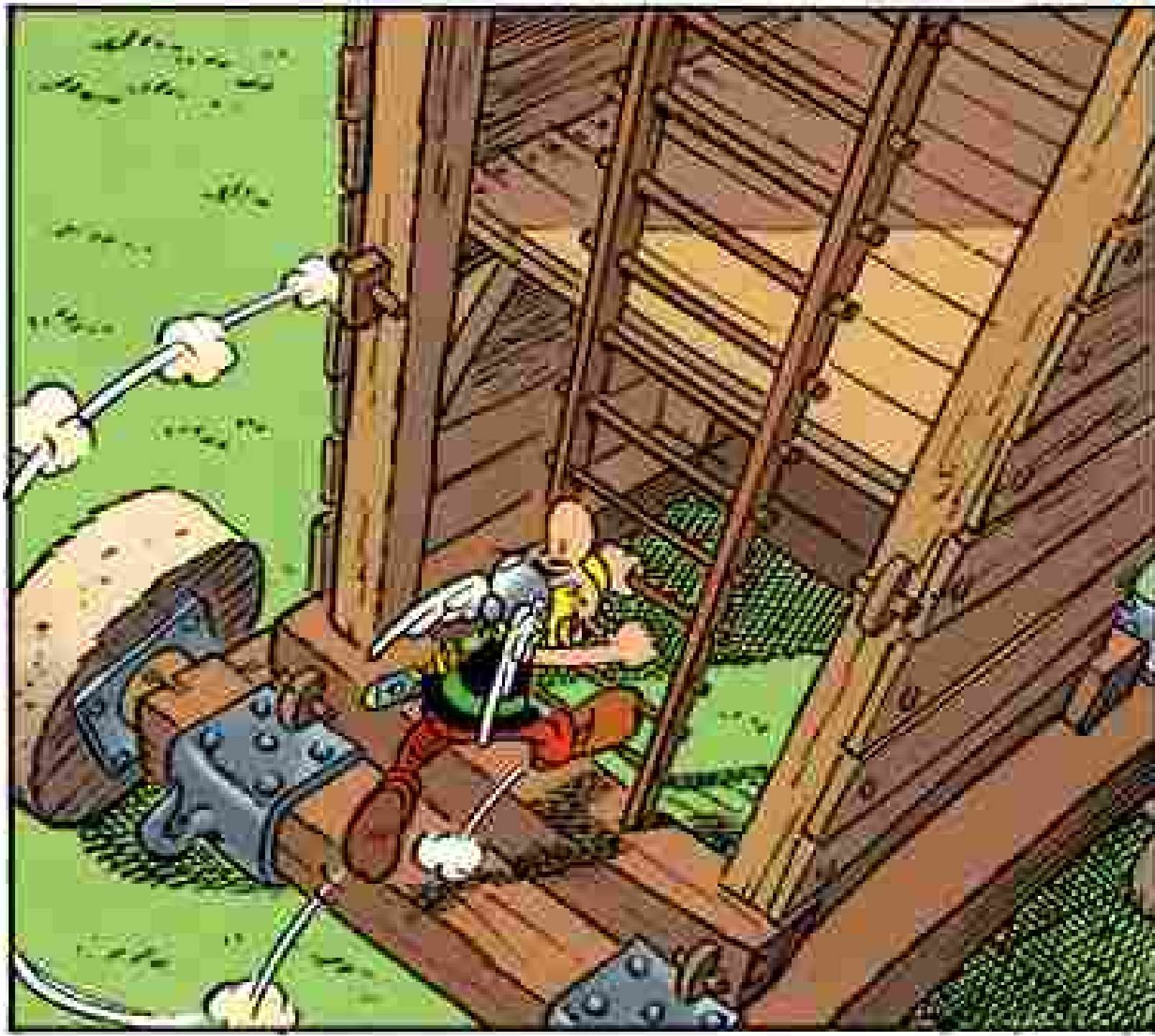
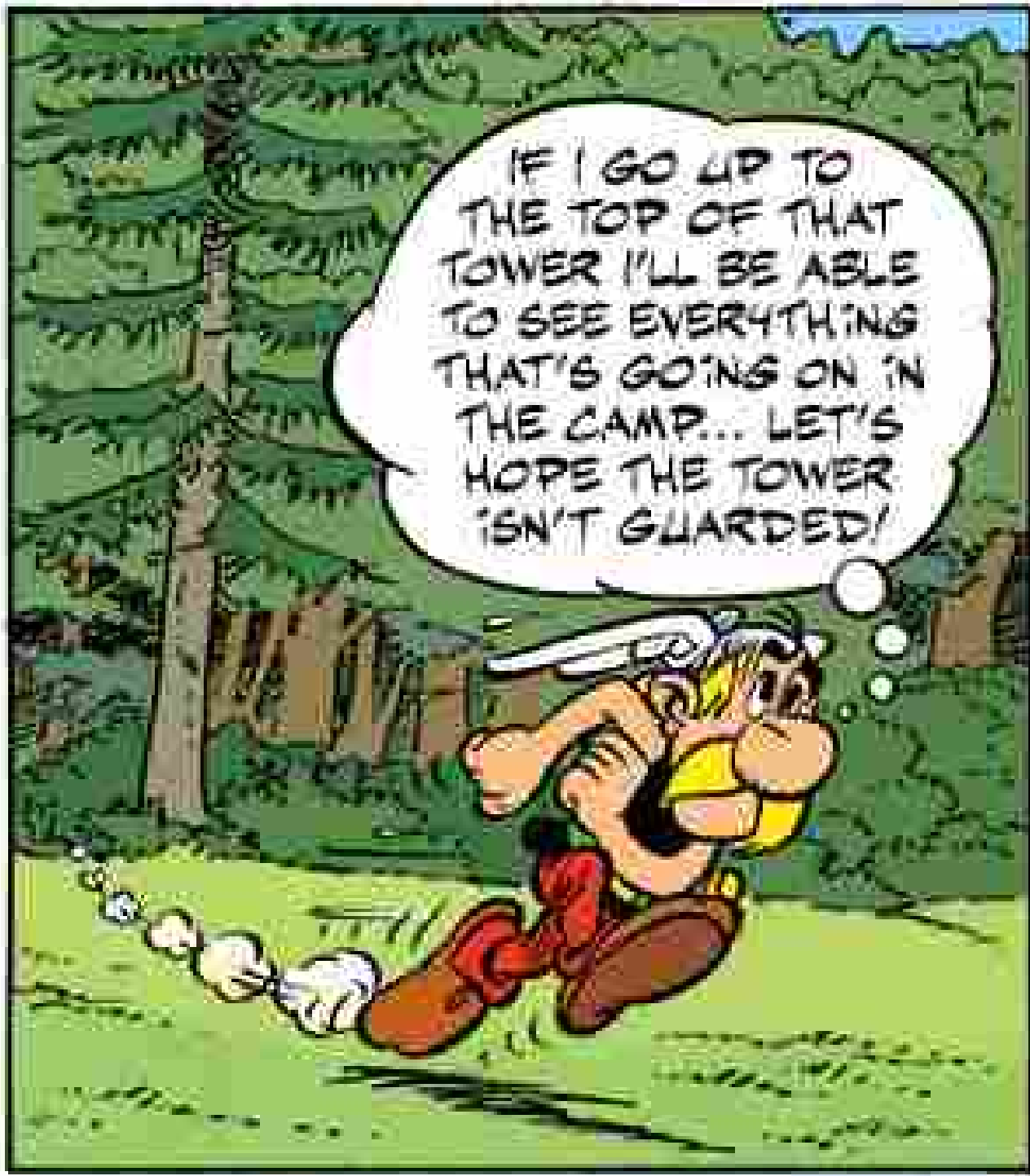


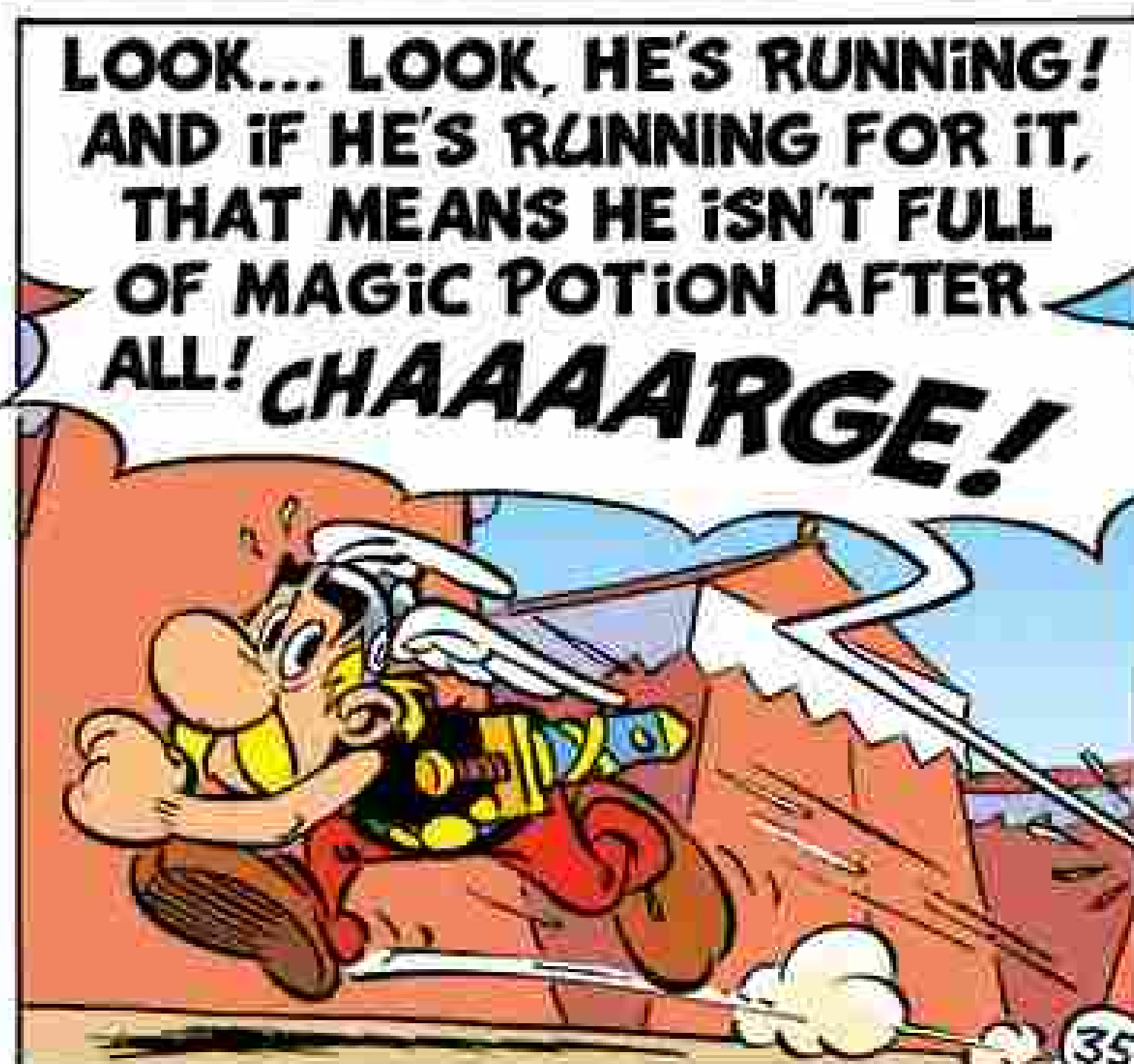
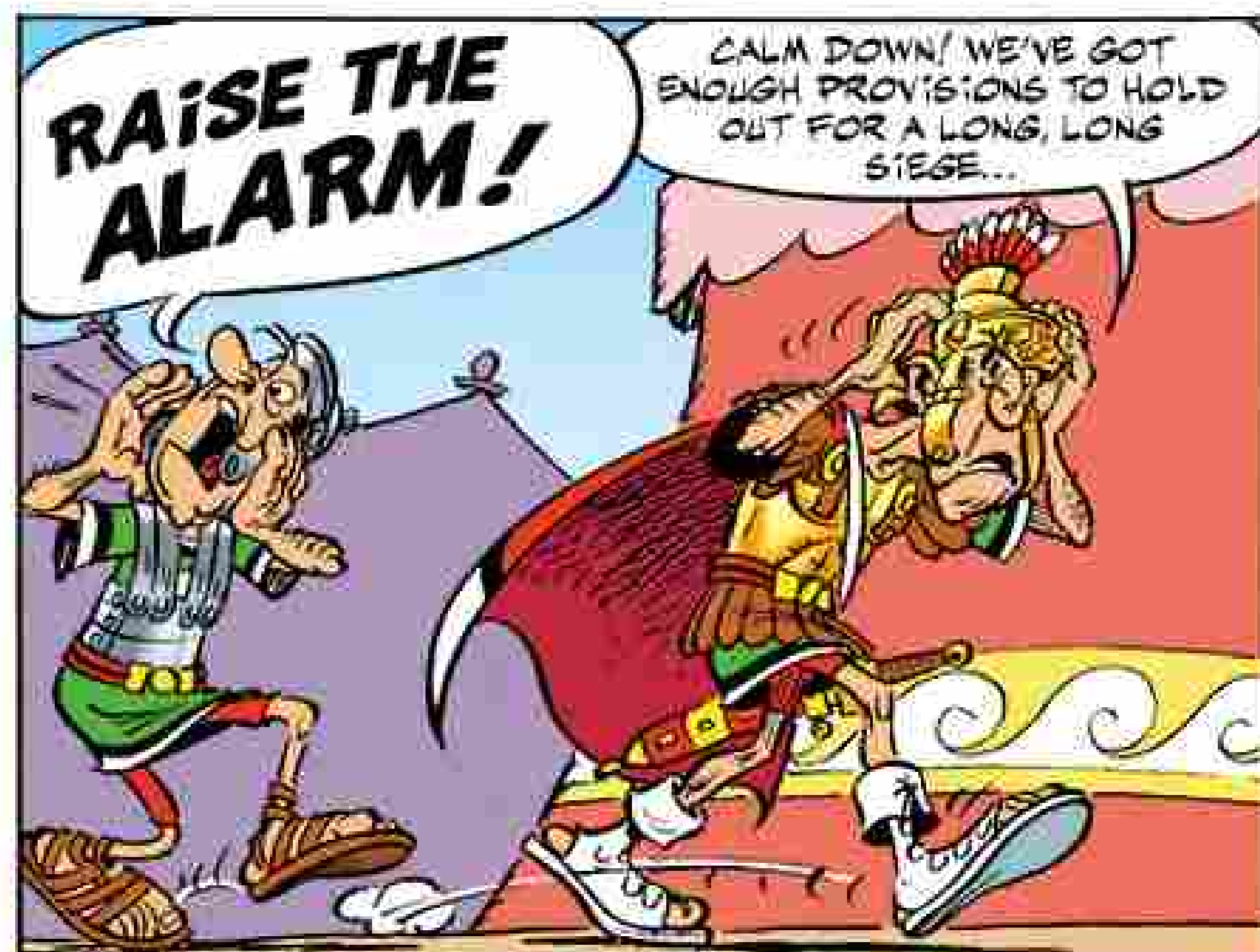
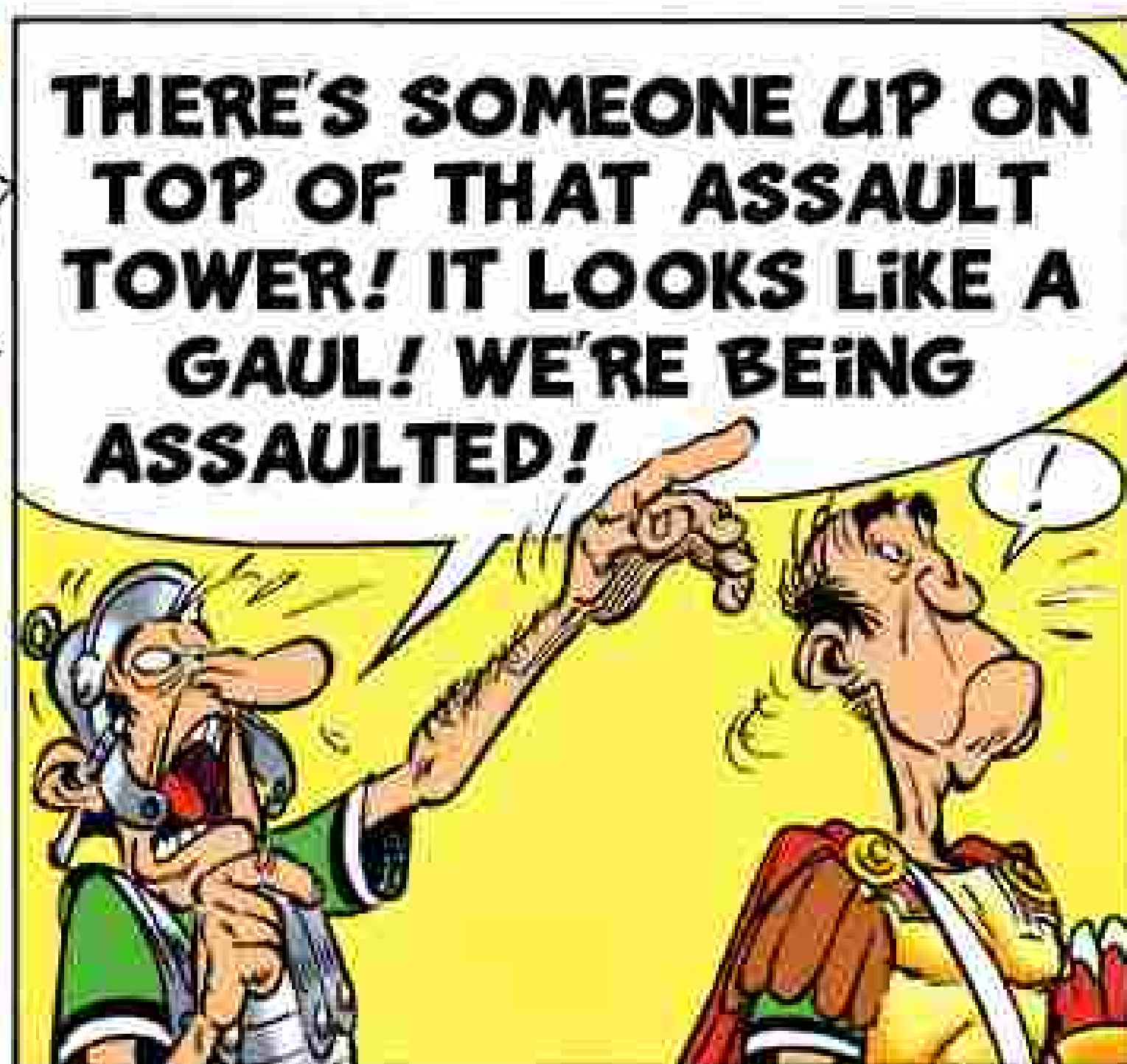


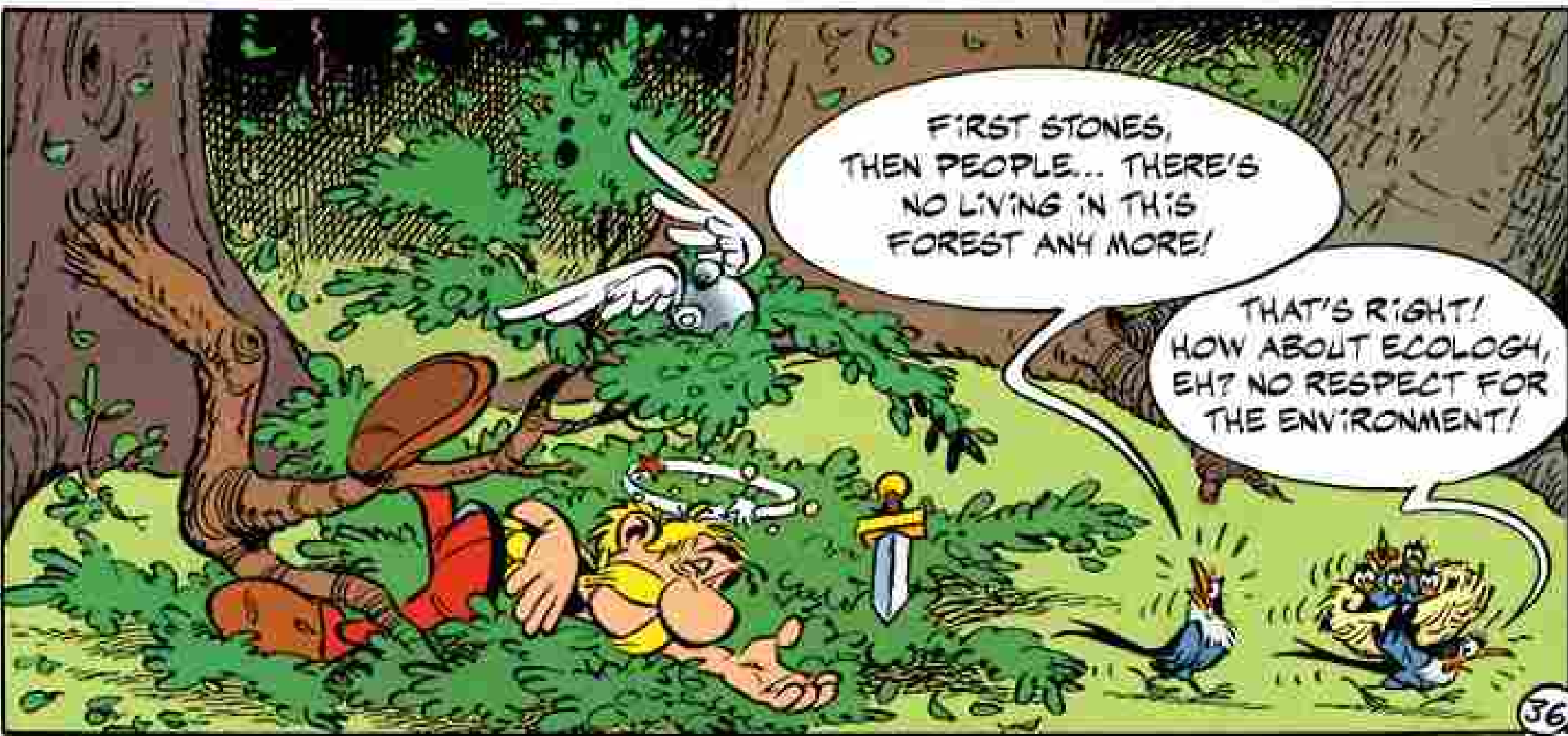
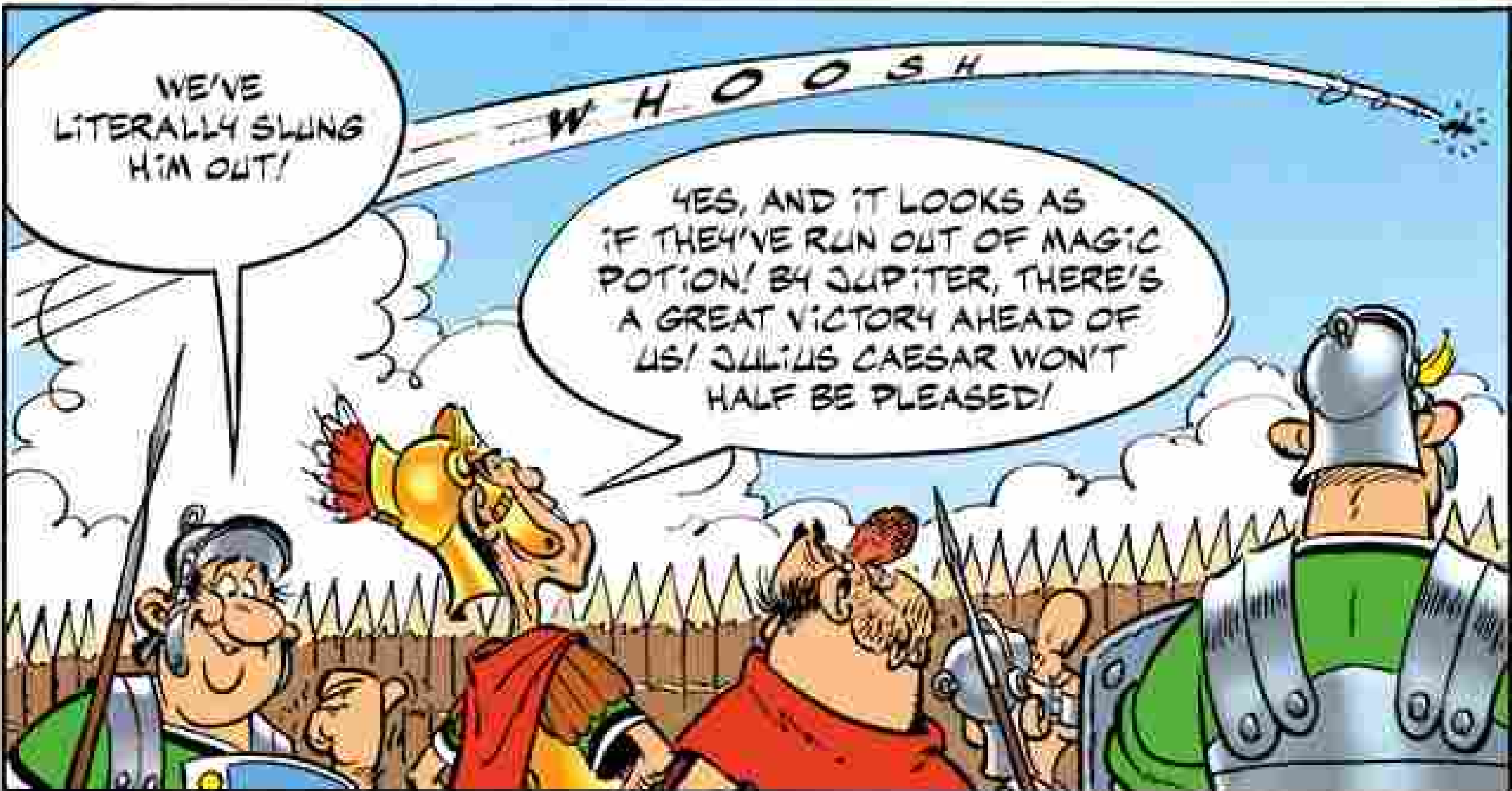
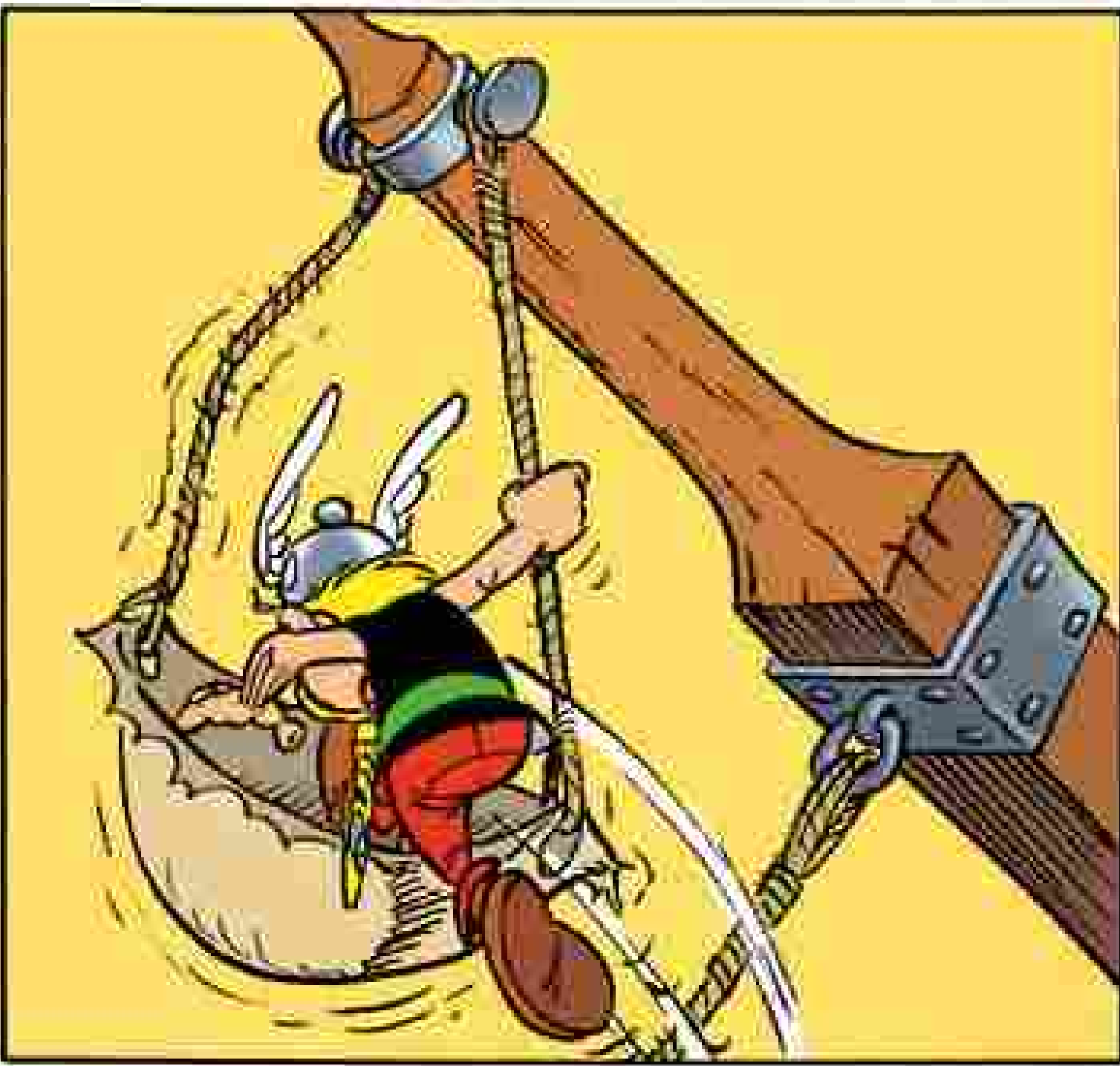


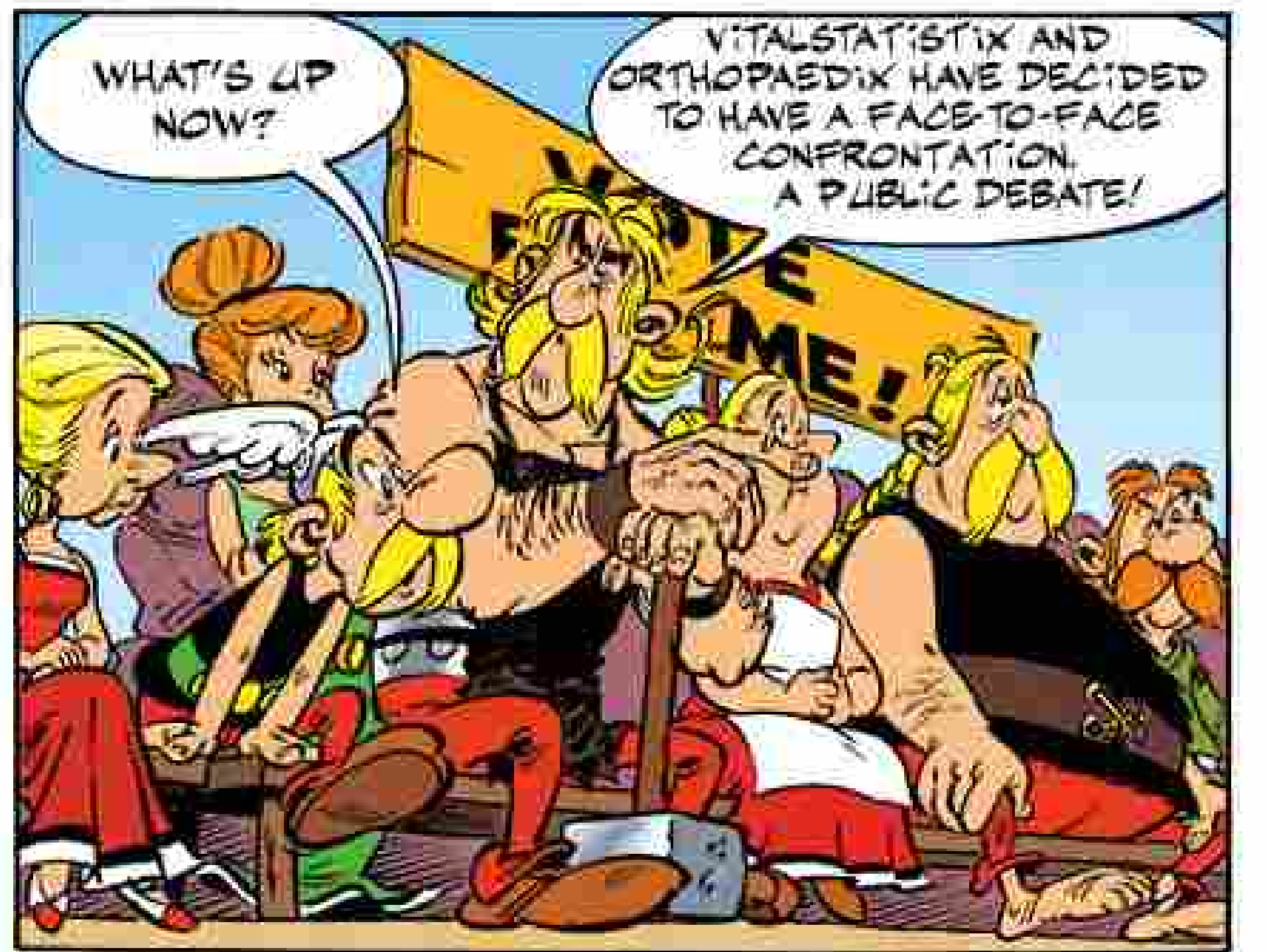
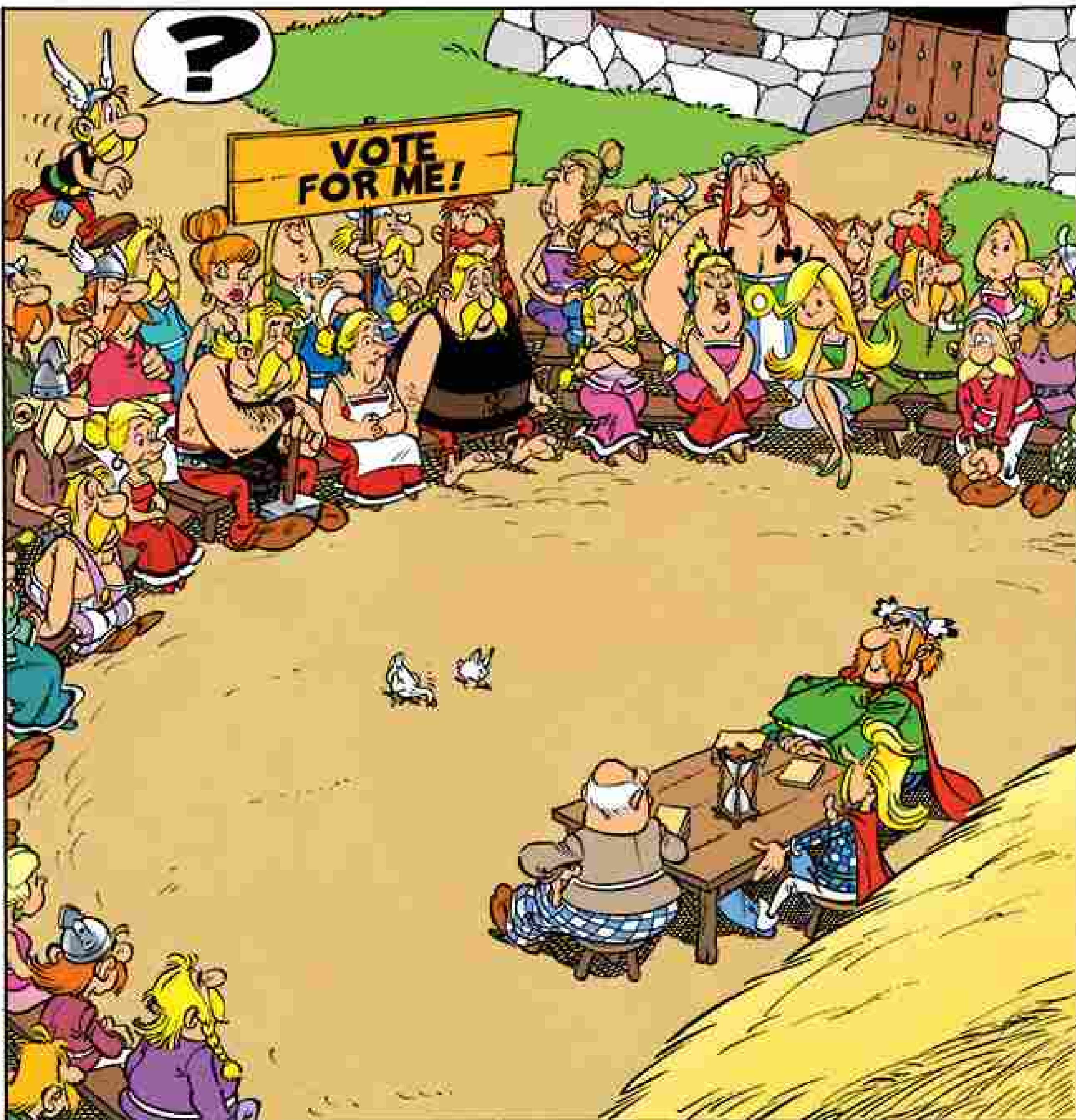


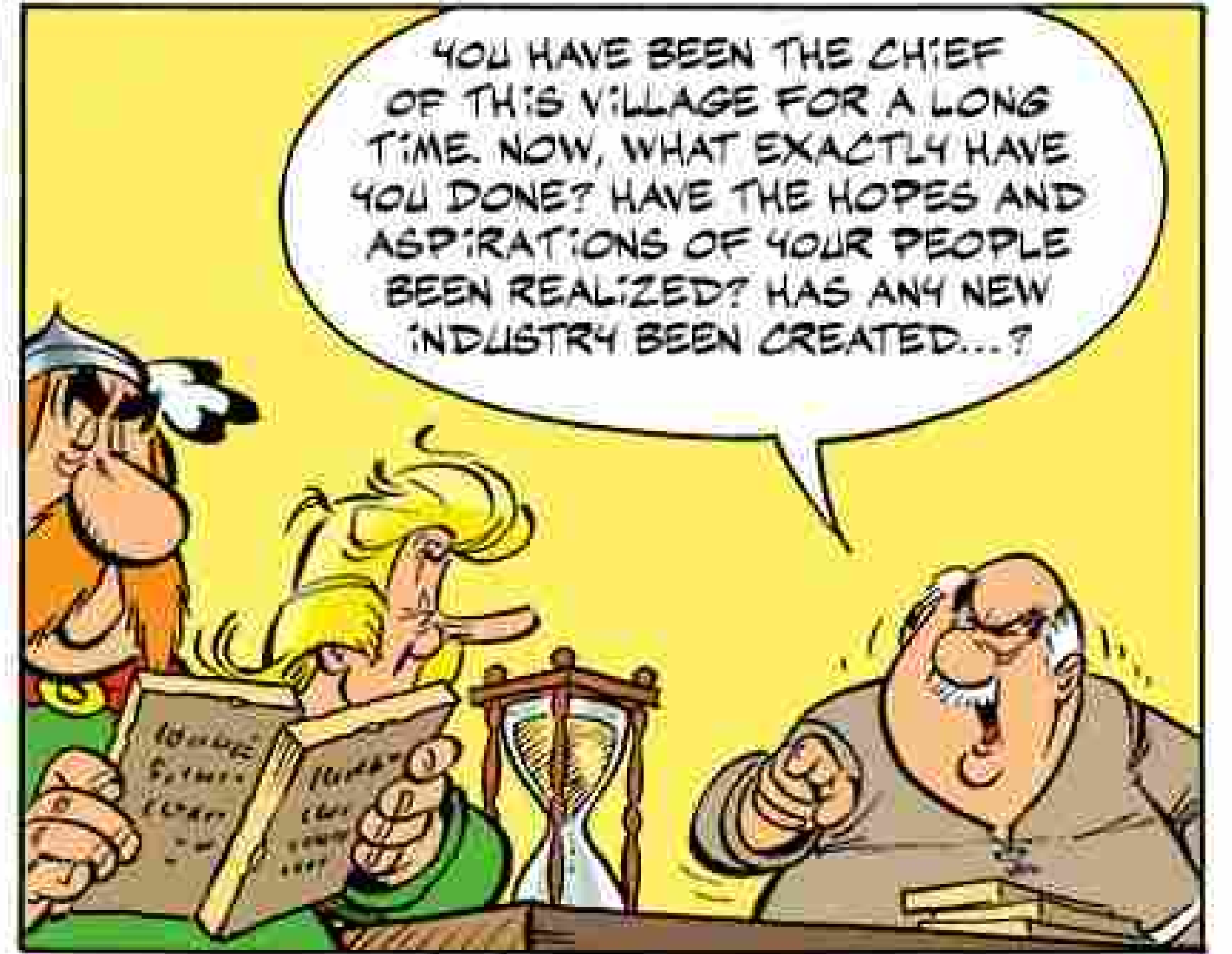












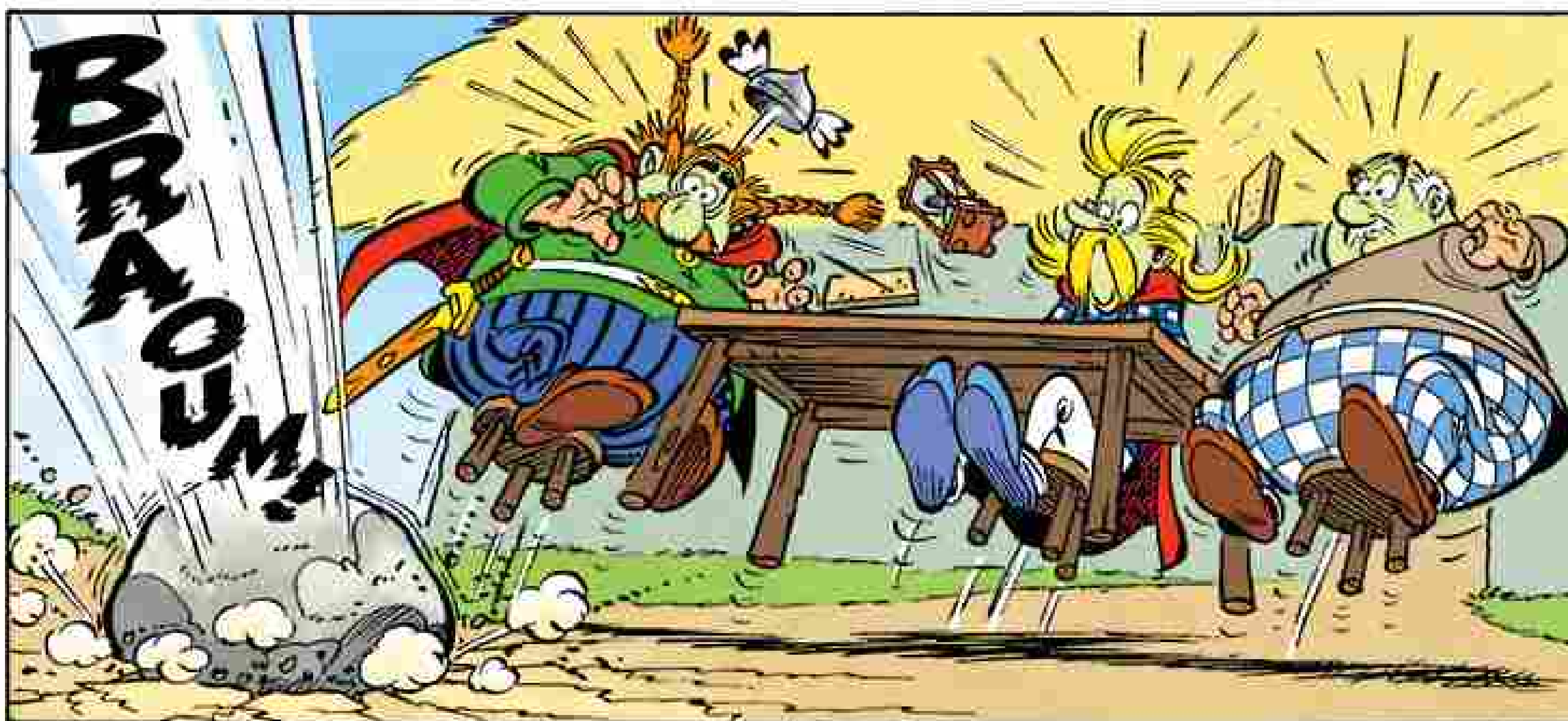
THIS ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE AN IMPARTIAL UMPIRE IS TYPICAL OF SOME PEOPLE'S APPROACH TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

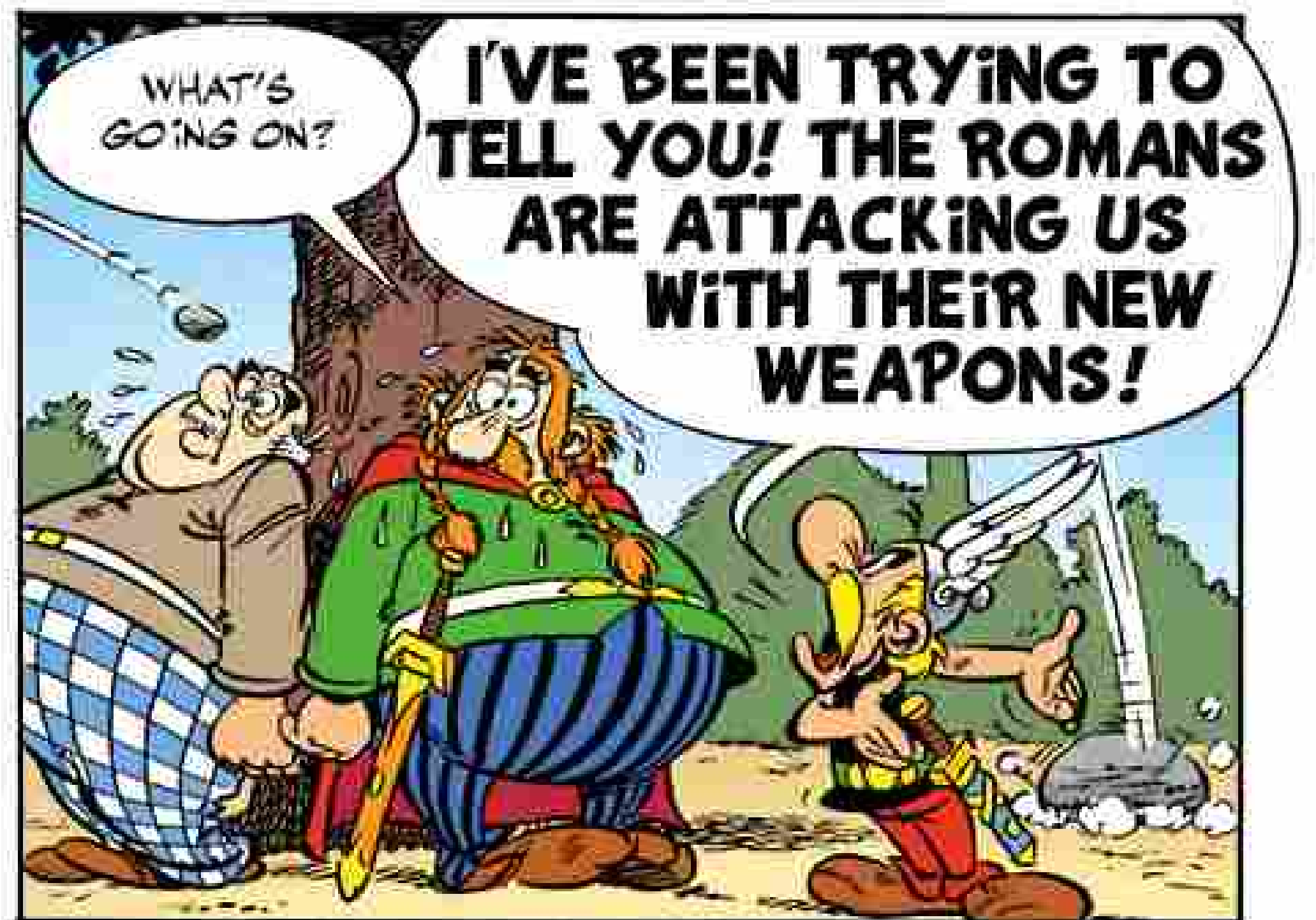
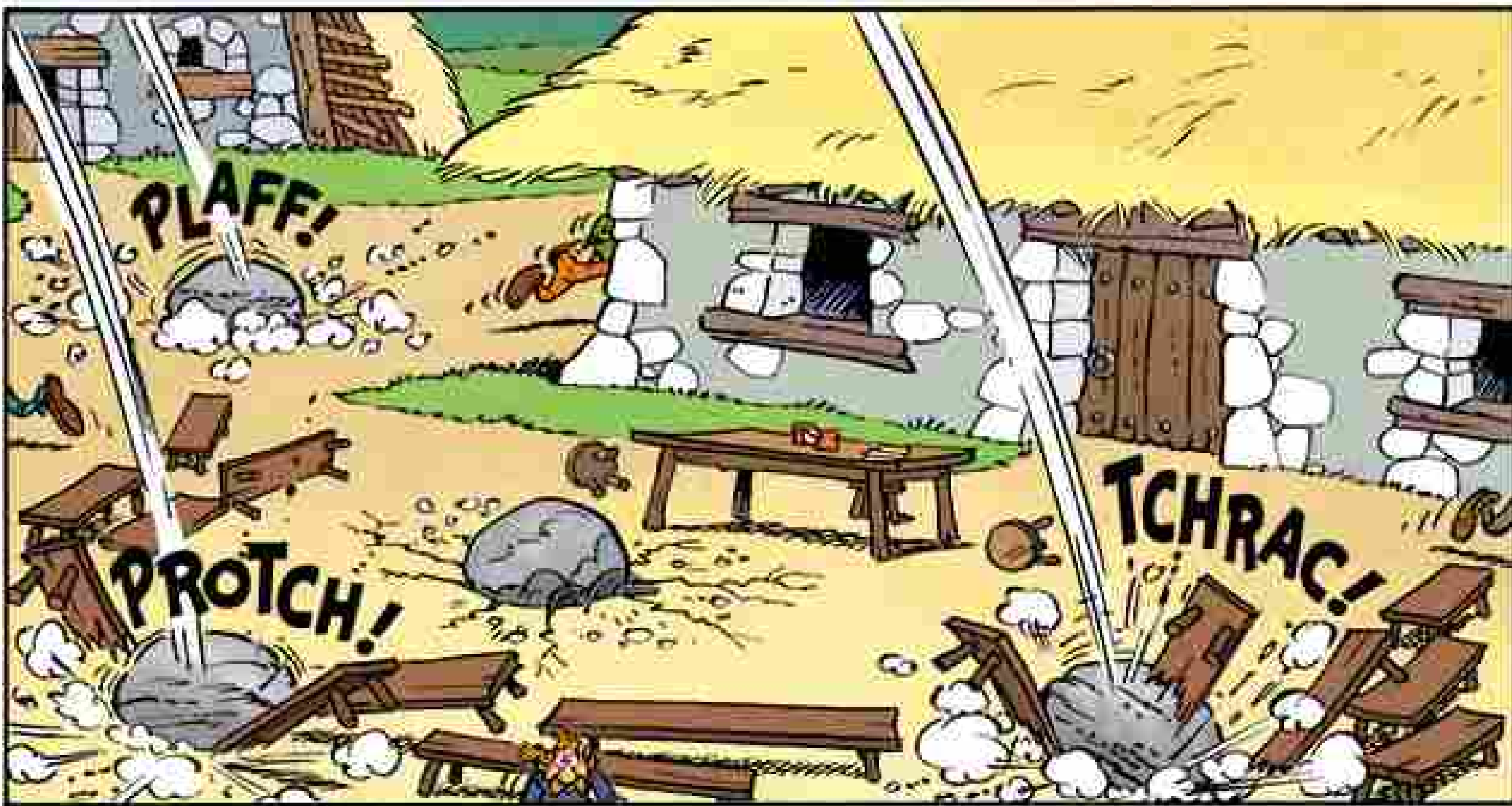


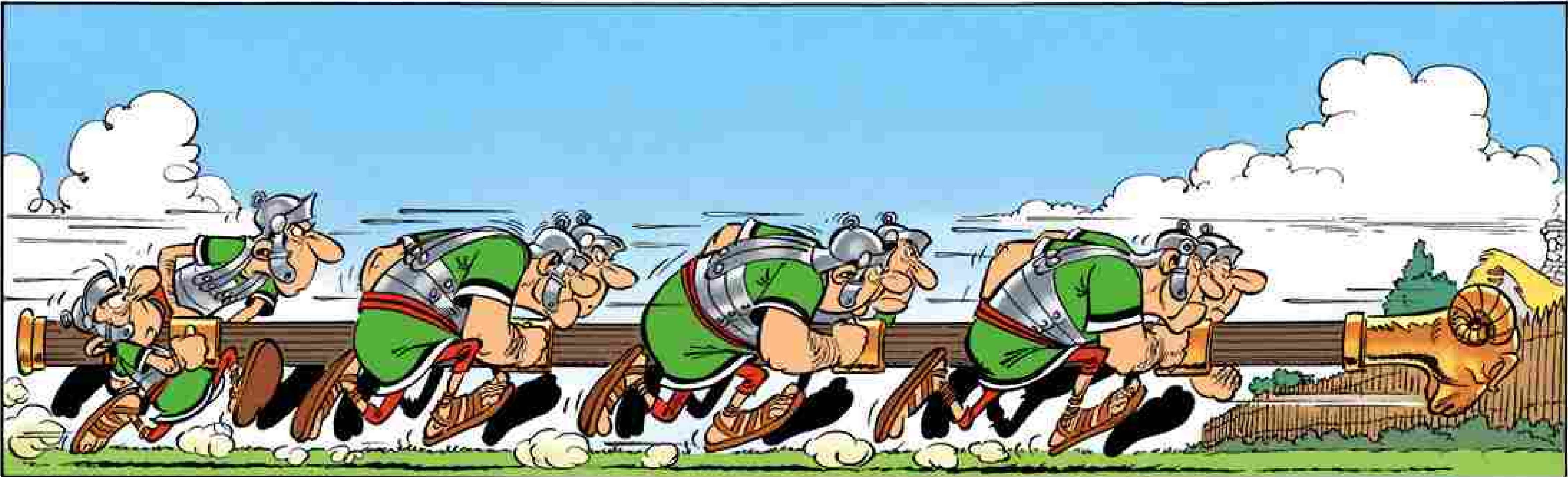
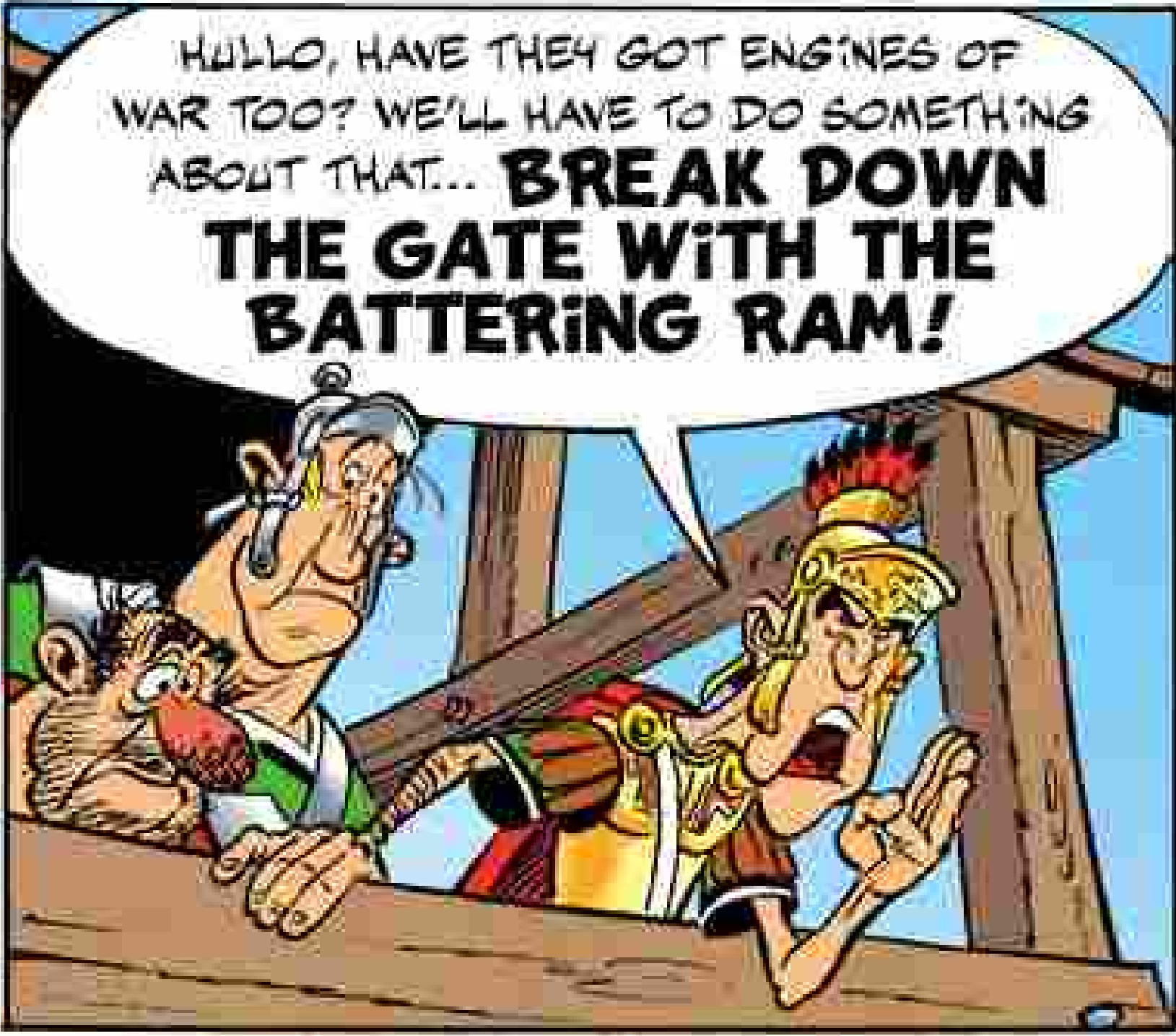
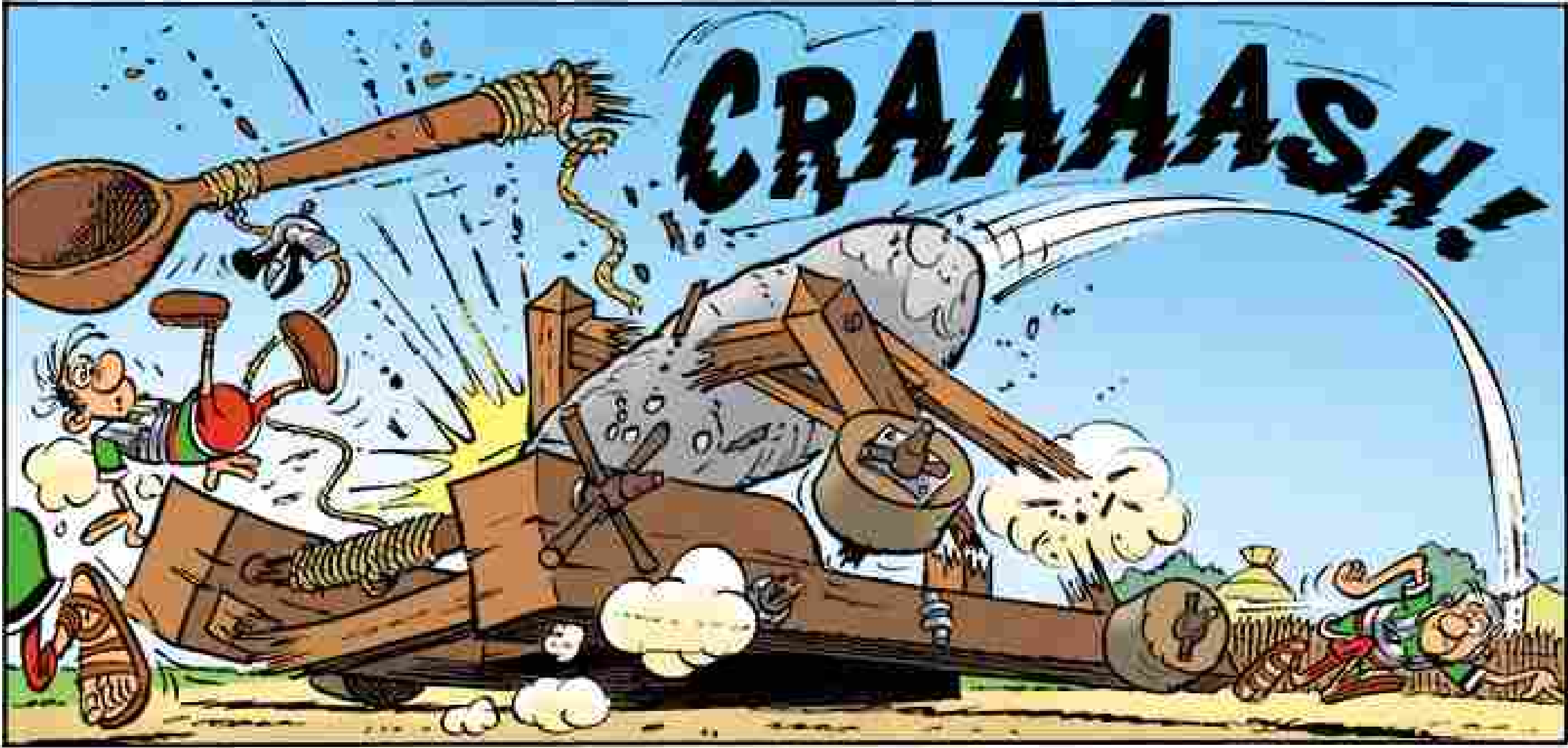
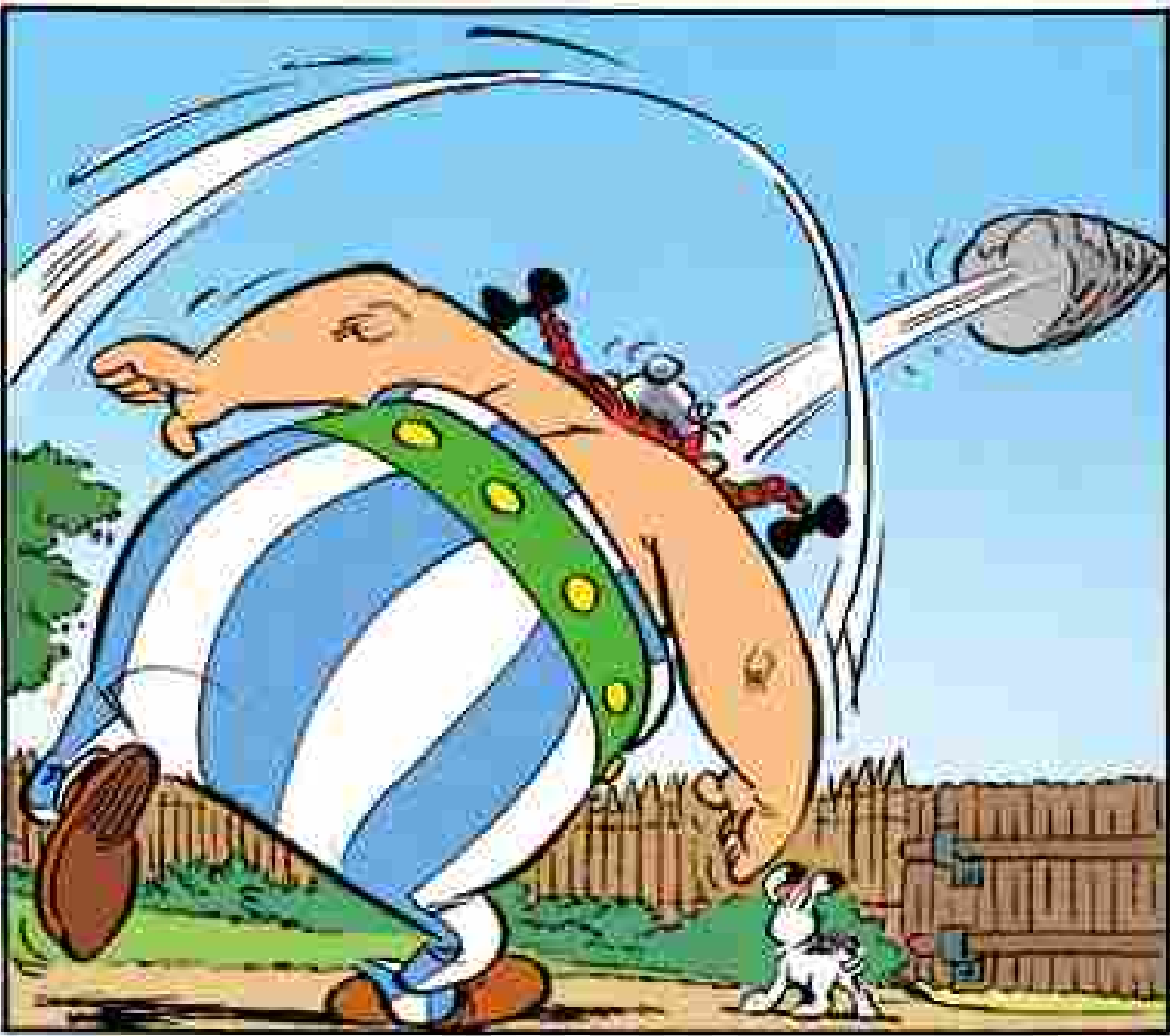
YOU CAN MAKE STATISTICS PROVE ANYTHING YOU LIKE!

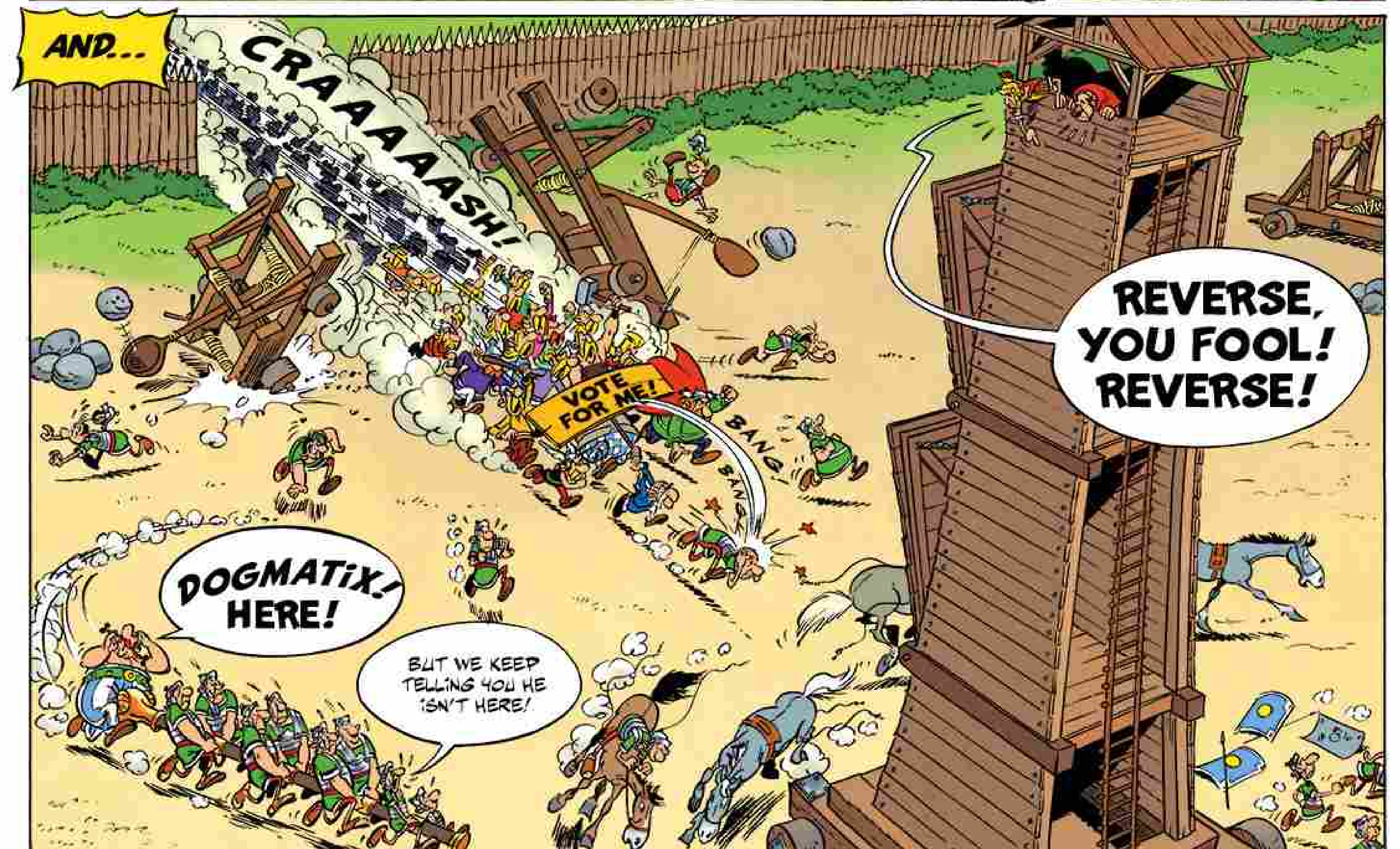
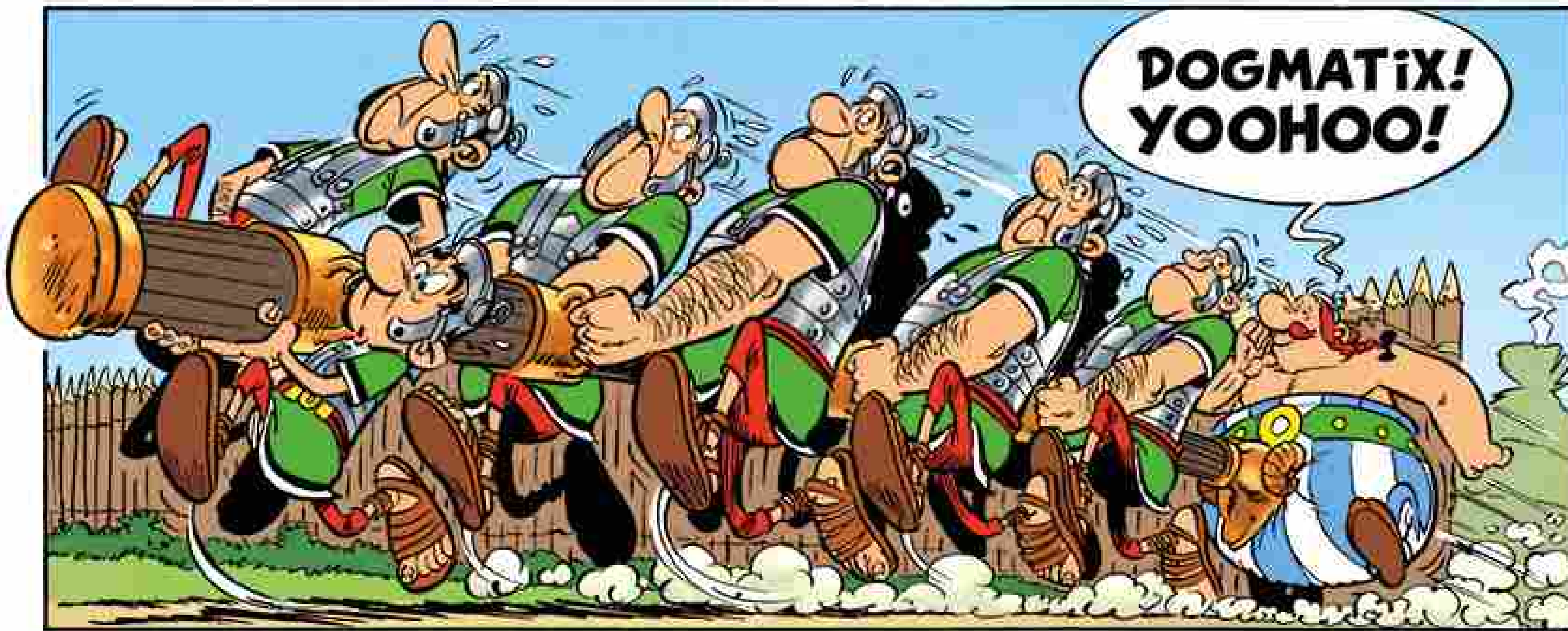


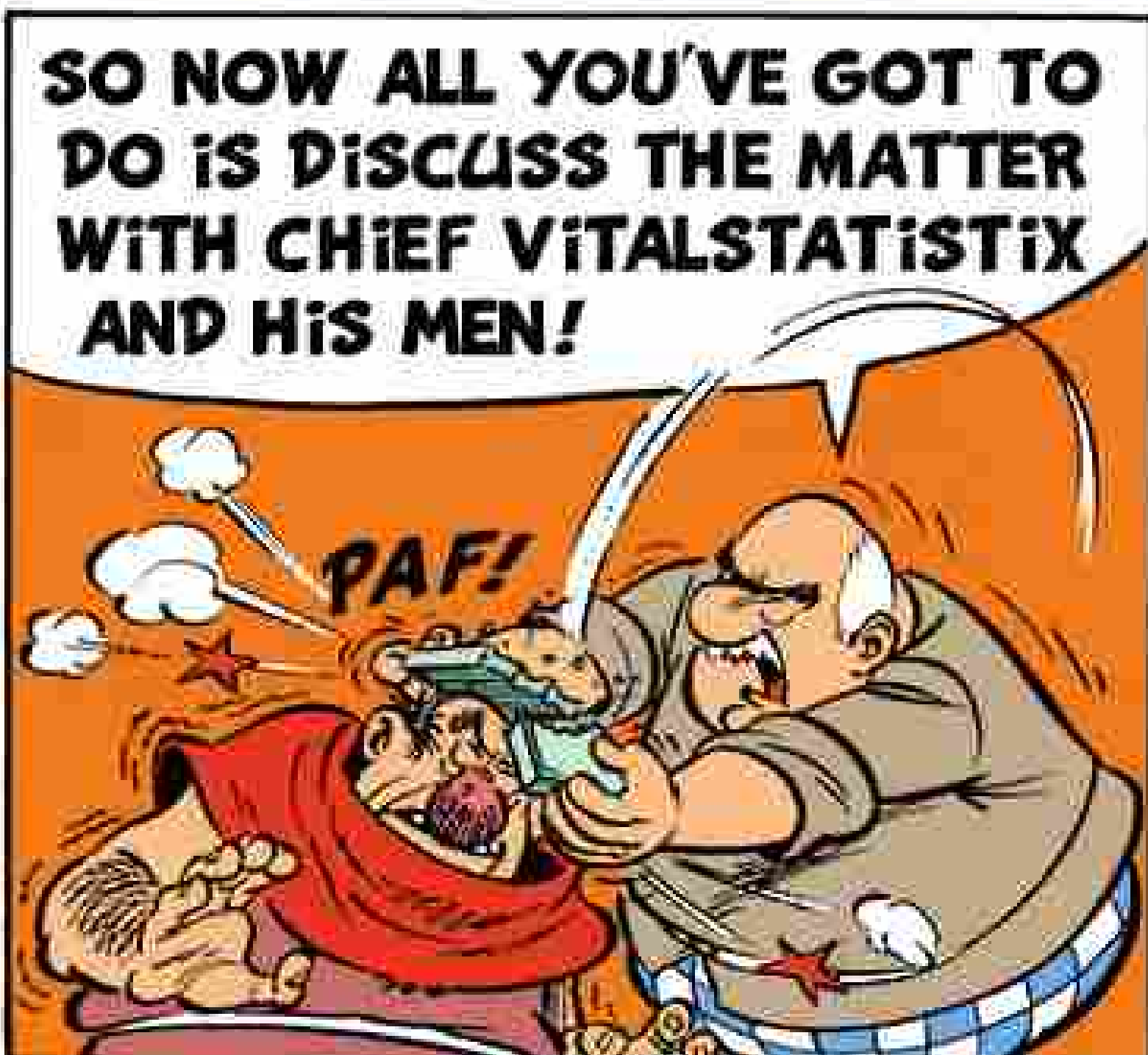
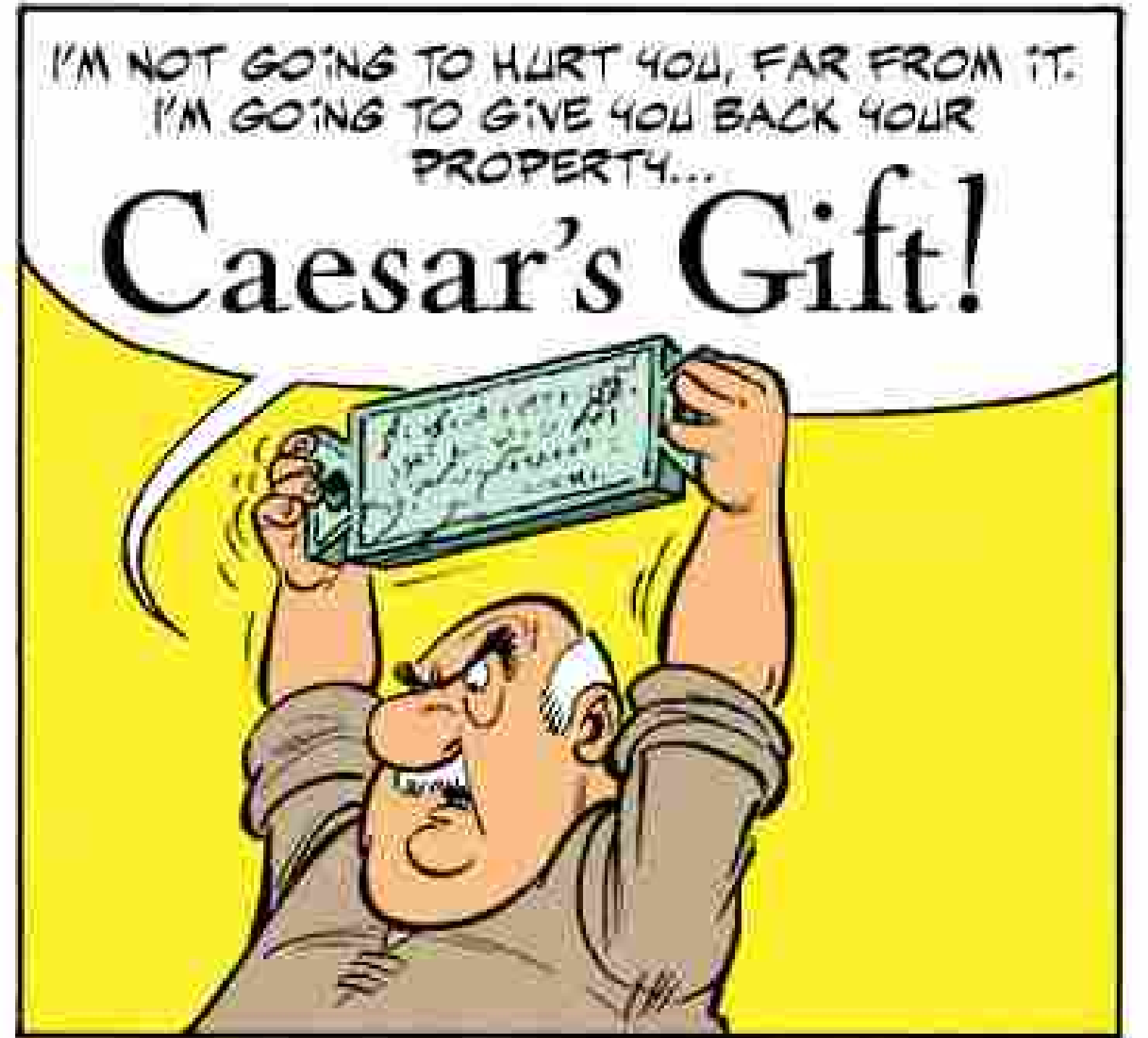
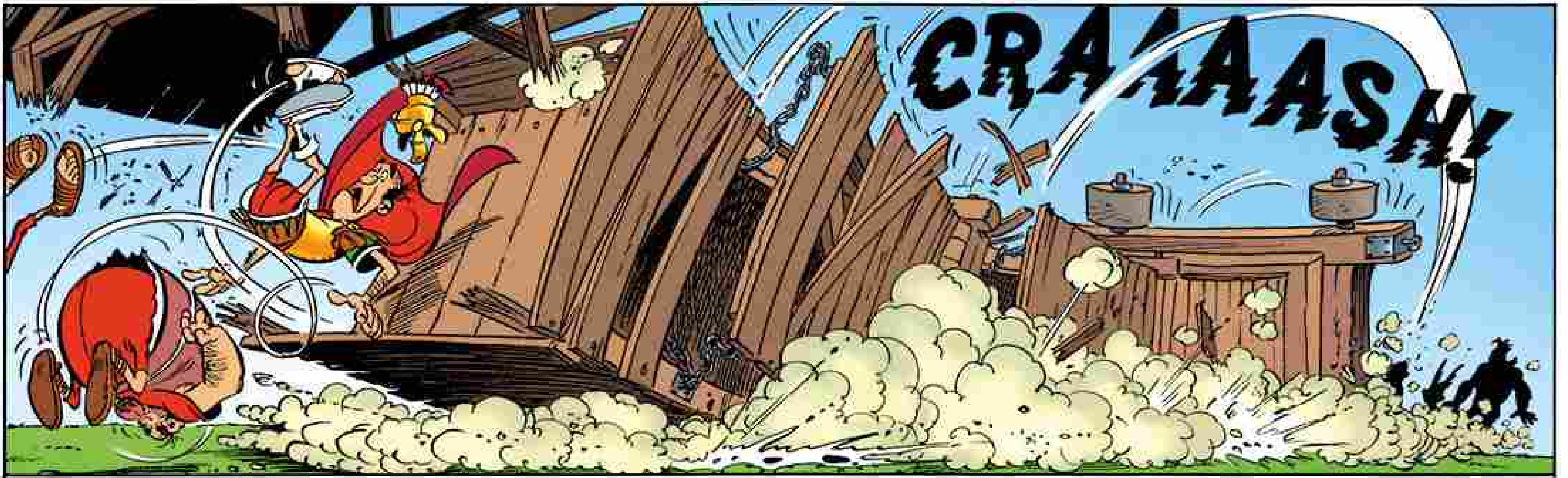
OH, LET'S BE SERIOUS!

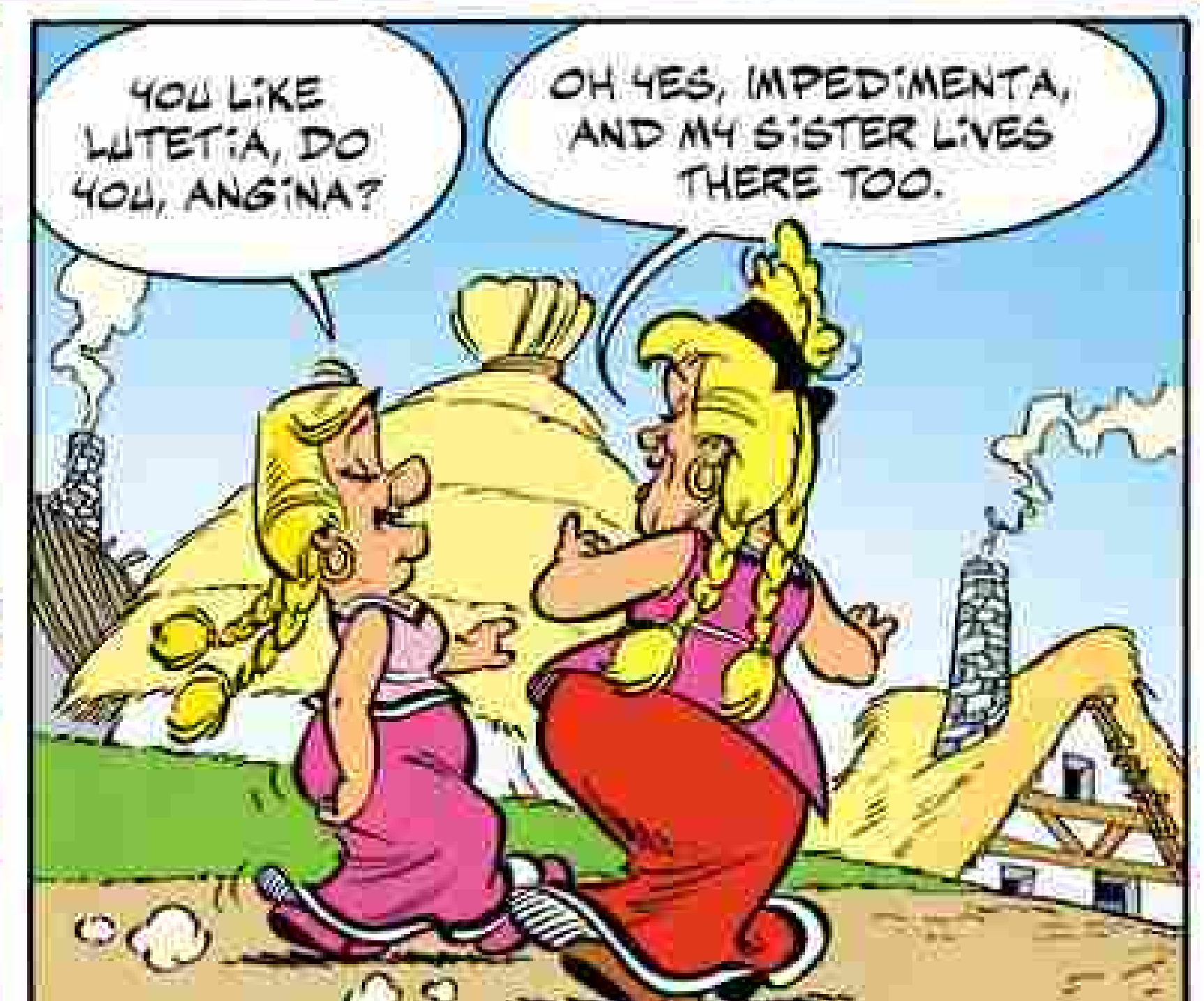
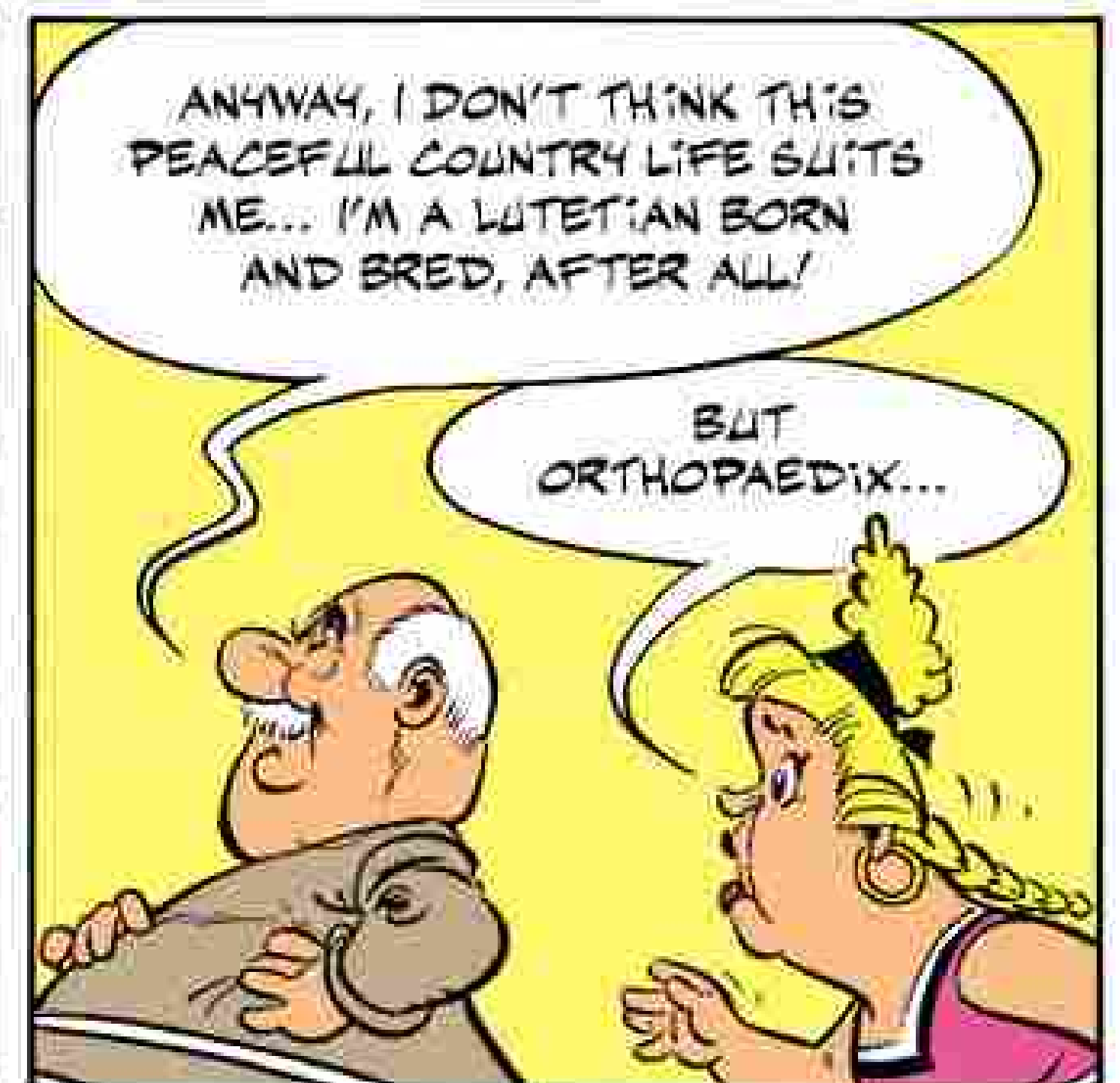














IN FACT, EVERYONE IS FRIENDS AGAIN. UNDER THE STARRY SKY, ALL PARTIES ARE RE-UNITED AROUND THE TABLE. ALL PARTIES... FOR WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT THIS HAPPENED VERY LONG AGO, ABOUT 50 BC, AND IN THOSE DAYS SUCH MATTERS WERE NOT SO VERY IMPORTANT.



UNDER 20-
GO FUNNY





I FEEL
A BIT WEAK,
GETAFIX ...

NO, OBELIX! YOU
ARE NOT HAVING ANY MAGIC
POTION! YOU KNOW VERY WELL
YOU FELL INTO THE CAULDRON
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, AND
IT HAD A PERMANENT
EFFECT ON YOU!

When
Legionary
Tremensdelirius
gets the title deeds
to the little Gaulish
village as a bonus, he
swaps them with tavern
landlord Orthopaedix
for a drink. Funnily
enough, Asterix and
his friends aren't keen
to hand over their village
to anyone else. After a
chieftaincy election
campaign and a showdown
with the Romans, both
events fiercely contested,
can all still end well?

